23/2013	U.S. Department of Transportation Announces $3 Billion to Strengthen Resiliency of Transit Agencies Affected by Hurricane Sandy
12/21/2013	U.S. Department of Transportation Celebrates Opening of New Light Rail Line, Expanding Transit Options in Houston Region
12/9/2013	U.S. Department of Transportation Awards $75 Million to Extend Commuter Rail Service in Southern California to Perris Valley
12/5/2013	U.S. Department of Transportation Celebrates Opening of Sugar House Streetcar Line, Expanding Transit Options in Salt Lake Region
11/26/2013	U.S. Department of Transportation Celebrates Groundbreaking of New Kirk Avenue Bus Facility to Improve Transit Service in Baltimore
11/15/2013	Federal Transit Administration Celebrates Opening of New Regional Transit Center, Improved Access to Transit Options in Southwest Mississippi
10/28/2013	Federal Transit Administration Celebrates Groundbreaking of New Bus Facility to Improve Transit Service in Northern Virginia
10/21/2013	U.S. Department of Transportation Announces $29 Million to Fund New Research on Strengthening Transit Safety and Disaster Recovery Capabilities
9/27/2013	Federal Transit Administration Celebrates Completion of TIGER-Funded Transit Improvements Along State Avenue in Kansas City, Kansas
9/26/2013	U.S. Department of Transportation Seeks Comment on Ways to Strengthen, Coordinate Transit Safety and Asset Management
9/24/2013	Federal Transit Administration Announces Interagency Agreement To Strengthen the “Buy America” Program and Domestic Manufacturing
9/13/2013	Federal Transit Administration Celebrates Groundbreaking of Cleveland’s West Shore Express Bus Rapid Transit Line
9/6/2013	U.S. Department of Transportation Announces $10.3 Million TIGER Grant to Build New Transit Transfer Center in El Paso, Texas
9/6/2013	U.S. Department of Transportation Announces $10 Million TIGER 2013 Grant to Improve Bus Service Into Downtown Nashville
9/5/2013	U.S. Department of Transportation Announces $13.6 Million To Advance American-Made Fuel Cell Technology for Transit Industry
9/3/2013	Federal Transit Administration Celebrates Opening of Nation’s First Rural Bus Rapid Transit System
8/30/2013	Federal Transit Administration Celebrates Renovated Bus Maintenance Facility Serving Springfield Transit Riders
8/16/2013	U.S. Transportation Secretary Foxx Celebrates Opening of Draper Light Rail Line in Utah
8/5/2013	Federal Transit Administration Celebrates Opening of Kent Central Gateway Transit Center, Improved Access to Transit Options in Ohio
7/25/2013	Federal Transit Administration Celebrates Stamford Urban Transitway Extension, Improving Commute for Drivers and Transit Riders
7/18/2013	Federal Transit Administrator Rogoff Breaks Ground on Charlotte’s LYNX Blue Line Extension from Center City to UNC Campus
7/1/2013	Federal Transit Administration Celebrates Opening of Mission Transit Center, Improving Transit Service for Kansas Riders
7/1/2013	Federal Transit Administration Certifies Indiana, Kansas Producers of Accessible Transit Minivans Meet ‘Buy America’ Requirements
6/21/201	Federal Transit Administration Celebrates Opening of Fall River Bus Terminal, Improving

3	Transit Service for Riders in Southern Massachusetts
6/19/2013	Federal Transit Administration Announces Groundbreaking for the First Bus Rapid Transit System to Serve El Paso and the Mesa Corridor
6/12/2013	Federal Transit Administration Celebrates Opening of Bus Maintenance Facility, Improving Transit Service for Riders Across Rural Missouri
6/7/2013	Federal Transit Administration Celebrates Opening of Kearney Transit Facility, Improving Transit Service for Riders in Rural Nebraska
6/6/2013	Federal Transit Administration Awards $646,500 to Help Veterans, Military Families Access Transportation Services in New Mexico
5/31/2013	Federal Transit Administration Celebrates Groundbreaking of New Transit District Project in Uptown Cincinnati
5/28/2013	Federal Transit Administration Celebrates Opening of Worcester Union Station Bus Hub, Improving Transit Connections for Riders in New England
5/23/2013	U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Announces $3.7 Billion in Additional Hurricane Sandy Disaster Relief Aid for Transit Agencies
5/16/2013	Federal Transit Deputy Administrator McMillan Celebrates Updated, Fully ADA-Compliant Primos Rail Station Near Philadelphia
5/13/2013	U.S. Department of Transportation Announces Availability of $21.9 Million to Help States Strengthen Transit Safety Oversight
5/2/2013	Federal Transit Administrator on Hand to Celebrate Completion of Columbus Plaza Rehabilitation Project, Improved Access to Union Station
4/26/2013	U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Applauds Groundbreaking of Light Rail Extension Serving South King County Riders
4/26/2013	U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood Applauds the Opening of Denver’s New West Light Rail Line
3/29/2013	U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Announces $1.42 Billion to Help Transit Agencies Recover From Hurricane Sandy
3/19/2013	U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Announces $164.2 Million to Reimburse Transit Agencies in New Jersey, New York and Connecticut Recovering from Hurricane Sandy
3/8/2013	U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Visits Ohio to Highlight Public Transportation’s Role in Job Creation
3/6/2013	U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Allocates $390 Million to Reimburse Transit Agencies in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania Recovering from Hurricane Sandy
3/5/2013	Federal Transit Administration, Federal Emergency Management Agency Sign Agreement Outlining Roles For Addressing Public Transit Needs Following Hurricane Sandy, Future Major Disasters
2/22/2013	Federal Transit Administrator Rogoff Visits Orlando to Highlight Job-Creating Investments in Public Transportation
2/18/2013	U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood Announces $250,000 to Improve Transit Service in Montana’s Glacier National Park
2/18/2013	U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Announces $12.5 Million to Improve Access to America’s National Parks and Protected Areas
2/18/2013	U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood, Interior Secretary Salazar Announce $2.2 Million to Improve Access to National Parks and Protected Areas in Colorado
2/4/2013	Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood Makes $2 Billion in Federal Aid Available for Public Transit Systems Damaged by Hurricane Sandy
1/30/2013	U.S. Department of Transportation Updates Environmental Review Process to Cut Red Tape and Move Critical Transit Projects Ahead More Quickly and Efficiently
1/28/201	FTA Celebrates Grand Opening Of New Orleans Streetcar Line

3	
1/18/2013	U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood Announces $25 Million for Woodward Ave. Streetcar Project in Detroit
1/11/2013	U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood Announces $7 Million for Transit Workforce Development Grants to Boost Training, Employment Opportunities
1/9/2013	U.S. Department of Transportation Finalizes Significant Changes to Major Capital Transit Investment Program
1/7/2013	U.S. Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood Announces $135 Million to Extend Sacramento Light Rail to Growing South Corridor

U.S. Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood Announces $135 Million to Extend Sacramento Light Rail to Growing South Corridor

1/7/2013
Contact: Allison Lantero
202-366-8224

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today participated in a signing ceremony to commit $135 million to extend the existing Sacramento Light Rail Blue Line by 4.3 miles, linking downtown Sacramento to the growing South Sacramento County corridor. The expansion offers commuters an alternative to congested Highway 99 while bringing new transit service to Cosumnes River College, one of the area's major employers. Secretary LaHood was joined at the signing ceremony by Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff, California Congresswoman Doris Matsui, Mayor Kevin Johnson and other state and local officials.

"The Obama Administration is committed to helping the Sacramento area create a modern, efficient transportation network to spur new economic development and reduce congestion in the region," said Secretary LaHood. "Across America, we're investing in projects like this one that are built to last and keep our economy moving forward."

Ridership on Sacramento's existing light rail system rose by 7.4 percent between Fiscal Year 2011 and Fiscal Year 2012, and the area population is expected to grow steadily over the next five years as the local economy continues to improve. Extending the Blue Line will improve access to the

area's major employers and encourage new retail and residential development in specially zoned areas. According to Sacramento Regional Transit, which operates the line, the extension project will generate 1,000 jobs or more over the next two years.

"California's capital region needs robust transportation choices to ensure that current and future generations have ready and affordable access to jobs, education, medical appointments and more," said Administrator Rogoff. "The Blue Line light rail extension will help thousands of Cosumnes students spend less at the pump, and will spur retail and residential development at the new Morrison Creek Station and beyond."

The project extends the Blue Line light rail line 4.3 miles from Meadowview Road to Cosumnes River College and includes four new stations at Morrison Creek, Franklin Boulevard, Center Parkway and the college. The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) is funding 50 percent of the $270 million project through its New Starts Program. DOT provided an additional $7.1 million; the remaining cost will be covered by state and local funding.

Today's funding announcement is the latest of several investments in Sacramento's transportation future made by FTA and the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT). For instance, in June 2012, Secretary LaHood announced that DOT would provide $15 million through its Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant program to rehabilitate the Sacramento Valley Rail Station, an intermodal transit hub connected to the Sacramento Light Rail Gold Line. FTA provided $111.2 million, or half the total cost, of the South Corridor (Blue Line) light rail starter line, which began operations in 2003.

###

U.S. Department of Transportation Finalizes Significant Changes to Major Capital Transit Investment Program

1/9/2013
Contact: Amy Bernstein
202-366-0706

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has unveiled a streamlined approach for administering its primary capital public transportation program for expanding transit systems. The New Starts/Small Starts program, one of the largest competitive grant programs in the U.S. government, funds roughly half the cost of new and extended light rail, commuter rail, bus rapid transit and ferry systems built in the United States.

"Now more than ever, Americans need quality transportation choices that improve mobility, enhance access to jobs and encourage sustainable communities," said Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. "These changes, years in the making, reflect the Obama Administration's commitment to strengthening public transportation across the United States as efficiently, effectively and fairly as possible."

The new approach is published in today's Federal Register (http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-01-09/pdf/2012-31540.pdf) along with a Notice of Availability of Proposed New Starts and Small Starts Policy Guidance with information on how to submit comments (http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-01-09/pdf/2012-31539.pdf). FTA's related Proposed New Starts and Small Starts Policy Guidance is available separately at (http://www.fta.dot.gov/documents/NewStartsPolicyGuidance.pdf).

This work is the product of more than two years of public outreach to identify ways to cut red tape, reduce regulations for communities seeking federal funds, and help get critical transit projects under construction more quickly without compromising a stringent project review process. The changes are estimated to save taxpayers almost $500,000 annually by requiring less time-consuming paperwork and allowing communities to pre-qualify for certain projects. Additional savings may result from accelerating project delivery.

"The changes we're making to the New Starts capital investment program are a huge win for communities that want to see more of their local transportation priorities become reality," said FTA Administrator

Peter Rogoff. "We'll be in a position to save federal and local taxpayers' money and put more Americans to work by allowing good projects to begin construction more quickly."

Four key changes are being made to the New Starts/Small Starts program:

1. **FTA is adopting a simpler, more straightforward approach for measuring a proposed project's cost-effectiveness.** FTA will no longer require communities to compare a proposed project's travel time savings against a hypothetical alternative project. Instead, FTA will look at the estimated cost to construct the project communities intend to build compared against a rigorously analyzed estimate for the number of passengers the project will serve.
2. **FTA is expanding the range of environmental benefits used to evaluate proposed projects.** In addition to taking into account the Environmental Protection Agency's regional air quality designations, FTA will also look at the dollar value of the anticipated benefits to human health, energy use, air quality (such as changes in total greenhouse gas emissions and other pollutants) and safety (such as reductions in accidents and fatalities).
3. **FTA is adding new economic development factors to its ratings process.** FTA currently looks at local plans and policies already in place to encourage economic development and how well they're working in a given area. Going forward, a broader set of economic impacts will be included, such as whether local plans and policies maintain or increase affordable housing.
4. **FTA is streamlining the project evaluation process by reducing regulations and red tape.** FTA will allow project sponsors to forgo a detailed analysis of benefits that are unnecessary to justify a project. For example, projects that receive a sufficient rating on benefits calculations will not be required to do an analysis to forecast benefits out to some future year. Similarly, FTA is developing methods that can be used to estimate benefits using simple approaches.

FTA received approximately 1,000 comments on the proposed changes from a wide range of stakeholders and individuals. The agency also conducted extensive outreach, holding a webinar and public meetings in Atlanta, Dallas, and San Diego. Additional interim guidance on New Starts/Small Starts will be forthcoming to address provisions affected by the enactment of the legislation on Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21).

The changes announced today are consistent with Executive Order 13563 issued by President Obama in January 2011, calling on Federal agencies to "modify, streamline, expand, or repeal" rules that may be "outmoded, ineffective, insufficient, or excessively burdensome."

In FY2012, FTA's New Starts/Small Starts program provided more than $2 billion for capital projects to help build light rail, commuter rail, and bus rapid transit projects. In FY2011 and FY2012 alone, FTA signed more capital construction agreements for transit projects than in any two-year period in the agency's history.

###

U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood Announces $7 Million for Transit Workforce Development Grants to Boost Training, Employment Opportunities

Grants support community efforts to develop a transportation workforce for the future

1/11/2013
Contact: Amy Bernstein
202-366-0706

*(Workforce Development Grant Remarks*Audio *and* Transcript*)*

WASHINGTON – U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today announced that 17 organizations in 12 states will receive a share of $7 million from the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Innovative Transit Workforce Development Program. The grants help local public transit agencies, institutions of higher education, nonprofit organizations, and Indian tribes train a future generation of transit professionals, with particular emphasis on promoting training opportunities in emerging technologies and encouraging young people to pursue careers in public transportation.

"A well-educated workforce is vital to ensuring that our nation's economy continues to grow and that the transportation industry has qualified individuals to keep our transit systems competitive," said Secretary

LaHood. ﷺThis program provides training that reflects the Obama Administration﷽s commitment to helping Americans find good jobs.﷽

A table listing projects selected for funding in Fiscal Year 2012 is available here.

Secretary LaHood made today﷽s announcement at the Booker T. Washington Public Charter School for Technical Arts in Washington, D.C., where he highlighted a $795,334 workforce grant awarded to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA). This grant will be used to provide military veterans and high school students with skills training and assistance to help them transition into WMATA﷽s Bus Maintenance Apprenticeship programs. Participants will receive mechanical, electrical and electronics training to successfully join WMATA﷽s work force. LaHood was joined by FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff, Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, D.C. Mayor Vincent Gray, and other local officials.

ﷺThe United States has invested billions of dollars to strengthen public transportation around the country in recent years,﷽ said Administrator Rogoff. ﷺRight here in D.C., this program will enable talented young adults and military veterans to seize the opportunity to learn new skills and embark on successful career building, managing, operating, and maintaining Metro and other growing transit systems.﷽

Other projects funded by the grants focus on helping transit workers master hybrid and electric vehicle technologies, intelligent transportation systems, and computer-aided dispatch systems. Many projects also reach out to underserved communities and showcase innovative methods for inspiring youths to pursue careers in public transportation. FTA received a total of 64 eligible applications seeking more than $30 million in funds for the FY 2012 program.

In FY 2011, FTA provided $3 million for 12 transit workforce training programs that are showing great promise. For example, through Denver Regional Transportation District﷽s ﷺWorkforce Initiative Now﷽ program, roughly 280 college-aged teens and adults have been trained and/or hired to work on local transportation construction projects.

Under the new surface transportation law, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21), FTA is authorized to establish a competitive grant program to address the staffing needs of public transportation providers, advance maintenance-related training for alternative and energy-efficient vehicles and facilities, target areas with high rates of unemployment, and address current and projected workforce shortages in technical areas.

###

U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood Announces $25 Million for Woodward Ave. Streetcar Project in Detroit

Additional $6.5 million awarded to plan new regional bus rapid transit network

1/18/2013
Contact: Amy Bernstein
202-366-0706

DETROIT, Mich. – U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today announced that the M-1 Rail project can move forward immediately using the $25 million TIGER grant previously awarded for transit in Detroit. These funds support construction of a planned 3.3-mile streetcar line to help revitalize Detroit's historic Woodward Avenue corridor. M-1 Rail, a coalition of private-sector philanthropic and business leaders, has committed more than $100 million toward construction and operation of the $137 million project. The remainder will be funded by state and local sources.

The Secretary also announced an additional $6.5 million in Federal Transit Administration (FTA) planning funds available from prior fiscal years to help Michigan develop a bus rapid transit (BRT) network to expand transit options connecting downtown Detroit with its suburbs and key destinations in the region.

�I applaud Michigan�s leaders for coming together to support a regional vision for public transportation that will improve access to jobs, education, medical care, and other destinations for residents in the Detroit metro area,� said Secretary LaHood. �The Obama Administration is committed to the creation of a modern transportation system that will create jobs Detroit needs right now, while spurring new economic development to help this region grow stronger in the years to come.�

The Secretary was joined by Governor Rick Snyder, Senator Carl Levin, Senator Debbie Stabenow, Congressman John Dingell, Congressman John Conyers, Congressman Gary Peters, Congressman Sander Levin, Detroit Mayor Dave Bing, Officials from the M1 Rail Corporation and Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff.

The streetcar funding announcement comes just weeks after Governor Snyder signed into law critical legislation creating a Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) to develop and more efficiently operate public transportation projects in metropolitan Detroit and across the state.

�The M-1 Rail project will truly be a catalyst for bringing new jobs, employers, retailers, and attractions into downtown, Midtown, and the New Center area along Woodward Avenue,� said Administrator Rogoff. �And with the new regional transportation authority now in place, Greater Detroit can stand up a transit network that meets residents� needs while expanding economic opportunities.�

The Woodward Avenue streetcar line will be constructed and initially operated by the nonprofit M-1 Rail Corporation a consortium of local private businesses, foundations, and public and private institutions committed to improving mobility and supporting economic development along lower Woodward Avenue. Investors include the Kresge Foundation, the Penske Corporation, Quicken Loans and a dozen other benefactors.

The streetcar line is expected to include 11 stations, with connections to Campus Martius, Comerica Park (home of the Detroit Tigers), the Detroit Medical Center area, and Wayne State University. The City of Detroit, the Michigan Department of Transportation and the Southeastern Michigan Council of Governments will also be involved in moving the project through development and construction.

FTA�s planning funds will help to develop a BRT network to connect downtown Detroit with Macomb County along the region�s busiest transit corridor; expand east-west transit service between Macomb and Oakland counties, and extend transit service between downtown, Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport and Washtenaw County.

###

FTA Celebrates Grand Opening Of New Orleans Streetcar Line

New Line Connects Residents, Tourists to City's Major Attractions

1/28/2013
Contact: Angela Gates
202-366-3669

NEW ORLEANS – U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today participated in the grand opening of the Loyola Avenue-Union Passenger Terminal Streetcar Line. The new line extends transit service to the French Quarter, the Superdome and downtown jobs, and is already attracting new business and residential development to the area. Secretary LaHood was joined by Congressman Cedric Richmond, Mayor Mitch Landrieu, Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff and other local officials.

"We are committed to helping New Orleans modernize its historic streetcar line, which has become an important catalyst for revitalizing the downtown business and tourist districts," said Secretary LaHood. "The Obama Administration will continue investing in good transportation projects like this one that keep our economy moving forward."

The Loyola Avenue Streetcar line has four new stations and travels through the city's business district, which includes energy, government, healthcare and financial sector offices and jobs. The line connects directly with Amtrak and intercity bus service at the Union Passenger Terminal, as well as streetcar service on Canal Street. The private sector has contributed the

majority of nearly $2.7 billion to build and renovate properties along or near the streetcar corridor, including hotels, offices and sports facilities damaged by Hurricane Katrina in 2005. This includes a $185 million mixed-use development in the emerging South Market District along the Loyola Avenue streetcar route.

"The new streetcar extension is a big win for New Orleans, bringing new jobs and housing choices into the South Market District, and making it easier for residents and visitors alike to hop the streetcar to get to the Super Bowl without sitting in traffic," said FTA Administrator Rogoff. "Bringing more transit choices to New Orleans is essential to helping this city rebuild neighborhoods and thrive in the years ahead."

The U.S. Department of Transportation provided $45 million in Fiscal Year 2010 toward the streetcar project through its highly competitive TIGER (Transportation Investments Generating Economic Recovery) grant program. The remainder was funded by local sources.

In anticipation of its expanding streetcar network, the New Orleans Regional Transit Authority (NORTA) competed for and received in 2011 a $400,000 workforce development grant from FTA to establish a new streetcar maintenance training program specifically for disadvantaged workers 21 and over. The program, run in conjunction with nearby Delgado Community College, will graduate 14 participants in March 2013.

###

U.S. Department of Transportation Updates Environmental Review Process to Cut Red Tape and Move Critical Transit Projects Ahead More Quickly and Efficiently

Changes will help expedite emergency relief funds for Hurricane Sandy recovery

1/30/2013
Contact: Amy Bernstein
202-366-0706

WASHINGTON, D.C. – In keeping with President Obama's emphasis on cutting government red tape to speed up federal decisions on vital, job creating transportation infrastructure projects, the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) today announced important revisions – the first in more than 25 years – to expedite the environmental review process that all proposed transit projects seeking federal funds must undergo as part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

"This Administration is committed to clearing the way for communities to invest in transit options that revitalize neighborhoods and improve access to jobs and critical destinations," said Secretary LaHood. "These improvements expedite our environmental review process to move projects through the pipeline more quickly, while preserving critical community input on how planned transit projects affect the local environment."

One impact of FTA's new environmental review provisions is that the changes will make it possible to expedite the release of Hurricane Sandy emergency relief funds to aid in the restoration, rehabilitation and replacement of damaged transit assets in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and other regions.

Greater efficiencies will be achieved by allowing communities developing rail, bus, streetcar and ferry transit projects to spend less time and effort preparing documentation, such as environmental assessments, while continuing to ensure the protection of the environment and people's health. For example, a transit project slated for development in an existing transportation right-of-way would qualify for a less cumbersome environmental review process than one breaking all new ground. To help expedite the process overall, transportation authorities are also encouraged to take environmental impacts into consideration sooner, as part of the planning process, rather than later in the process which may cause delays.

�The FTA is continuing to find ways to make our government work smarter on behalf of the American people by cutting inefficiency wherever we find it,� said FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff. �These common-sense changes will allow communities to move projects from the drawing board to construction more quickly than in the past while making sure that we don�t compromise on protecting the environment.�

The changes announced today are the result of the most comprehensive review of FTA�s environmental procedures since 1987 and are in line with the provisions in the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) designed to expedite project delivery. The changes will also boost transparency of the NEPA process by encouraging environmental impact statements and other environmental review documents to be posted online, keeping local residents and other interested groups informed.

The changes to FTA�s environmental review process are consistent with President Obama�s Presidential Memorandum issued in August 2011, instructing departments to speed infrastructure development through more efficient and effective permitting and environmental review as well as the President�s Executive Order 13563 issued in January 2011, calling on Federal agencies to �modify, streamline, expand, or repeal� rules that may be �outmoded, ineffective, insufficient, or excessively burdensome.�

These changes are published in the Federal Register at http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-02-07/pdf/2013-02345.pdf. They are effective immediately.

###

Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood Makes $2 Billion in Federal Aid Available for Public Transit Systems Damaged by Hurricane Sandy

Assistance part of $10.9 billion emergency relief package to restore transit in 12 states and D.C.

2/4/2013
Contact: Amy Bernstein
202-366-0706

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) today announced the availability of $2 billion through the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) new Emergency Relief Program to help protect, repair, reconstruct, and replace public transit equipment and facilities that were badly damaged by Hurricane Sandy. The funds are the first installment of $10.9 billion appropriated to the FTA through the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act of 2013, which President Obama signed into law on January 29.

"At DOT, we continue doing all we can to help our state and local partners make their storm-damaged public transportation systems whole again," said Secretary LaHood. "The $2 billion we're making available now will reimburse transit agencies for extraordinary expenses incurred to protect workers and equipment before and after the hurricane hit, and support urgently needed repairs to seriously damaged transit systems and facilities in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and elsewhere."

FTA's new Emergency Relief Program was established under the two-year surface transportation law, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21). The funds will be awarded through the program on a rolling basis, in the form of grants to states, local governments, transit agencies and other organizations that own or operate transit systems damaged by the storm. Information about the funds and how to apply is available at www.fta.dot.gov/emergencyrelief.

"The Department has stepped up to address the worst transit disaster in U.S. history, which directly affected well over one-third of the nation's transit," said FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff. "We are pledged to distribute the emergency relief funding responsibly and as quickly as possible to ensure that transit riders have the reliable service they need and deserve—and lay a strong foundation to mitigate the impact of such disasters in the future."

Following the storm, the Department developed a rapid-response strategy to assist transit providers in the short-run, while laying the foundation for the responsible administration of federal-aid transit funds available now. Notably, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and FTA have conducted continuing damage assessments and cost-validation work for both operating and capital costs associated with restoring and rebuilding transit in the impacted areas. These early joint efforts support FTA's ability to compensate the affected transit agencies promptly while ensuring that taxpayer dollars are being spent responsibly.

Consistent with the requirements of the supplemental appropriations, the remaining disaster relief funds will be made available after FTA issues interim regulations. For the most part, the FTA will cover 90 percent of the cost of transit-related operating and capital projects undertaken in response to Hurricane Sandy.

###

U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood, Interior Secretary Salazar Announce $2.2 Million to Improve Access to National Parks and Protected Areas in Colorado

2/18/2013
Contact: Amy Bernstein
202-590-6615

COMMERCE CITY, Colo. – U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood and U.S. Interior Secretary Ken Salazar visited Colorado today to announce that the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge and two other Colorado parks will receive grants worth a total of $2.2 million as part of the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Paul S. Sarbanes Transit in Parks program. Secretaries LaHood and Salazar made the announcement at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge Complex, along with Governor John Hickenlooper and Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff.

"In his State of the Union address last week, President Obama called on us to upgrade our nation's transportation infrastructure to help grow our economy and improve energy efficiency," said Secretary LaHood. "Improving access to modern transit services throughout Colorado's scenic parklands and protected areas will help us to preserve these national treasures for future generations."

Secretary LaHood, Secretary Salazar and FTA Administrator Rogoff traveled to Commerce City to announce a $1,735,000 grant to the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge Complex to expand the Rocky Mountain Greenway, a pedestrian and bicycle trail system that will connect the Denver metropolitan area's trail systems, three National Wildlife Refuges in the region and Rocky Mountain National Park.

"By expanding the Denver metro area's growing network of pedestrian and bicycle trails and connecting them to nearby national parks and protected areas, we're helping millions of people to enjoy these public lands as they were meant to be enjoyed," said Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff. "These investments will take cars off the road, reduce harmful emissions, and help keep our parks sustainable for years to come."

Other grants in Colorado include:

- $337,000 to the Town of Estes Park to expand the Fall River Multi-Use Trail System along 2.5 miles adjacent to U.S. Highway 34, improving pedestrian and bicycle access to Rocky Mountain National Park and creating a seamless trail between the Estes Park Visitor Center and the park entrance.
- $140,000 to San Juan National Forest in Pagosa Springs to purchase new transit vehicles and implement a new shuttle service from the base area of the recently-designated Chimney Rock National Monument along a three-mile long road to the summit.

The funds announced today are part of $80 million distributed to 134 Transit in the Parks projects across the country over the last three years. This grant program was not reauthorized under the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) which was passed by Congress last year. Going forward, public transportation projects serving national parks and other federal lands remain eligible for funding under the Federal Lands Transportation Program administered by the Federal Highway Administration.

A map and a complete list of projects can be found here.

###

U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Announces $12.5 Million to Improve Access to America's National Parks and Protected Areas

2/18/2013
Contact: Amy Bernstein
202-590-6615

WASHINGTON – U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today announced $12.5 million in grants for 29 projects in 20 states to improve access to America's national parks, forests, and wildlife refuges. The selected projects will help reduce traffic congestion and make it easier for millions of visitors to enjoy the nation's scenic Federal lands. The funds are provided through the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Paul S. Sarbanes Transit in Parks program, which awarded $40.8 million for similar projects in January 2012.

A map and a complete list of projects can be found here.

"In his State of the Union address last week, President Obama called on us to upgrade our nation's transportation infrastructure to help grow our economy and improve energy efficiency," said Secretary LaHood. "Improving access to modern transit services throughout our scenic parklands and protected areas will help us to preserve these national treasures for future generations."

Secretary LaHood, U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Ken Salazar, and FTA Administrator Rogoff traveled to Commerce City, Colorado, to

announce a $1,735,000 grant to expand the Rocky Mountain Greenway, a pedestrian and bicycle trail system that will connect the Denver metropolitan area's trail systems, three National Wildlife Refuges in the region and Rocky Mountain National Park.

Secretary LaHood and Administrator Rogoff also visited Glacier National Park in West Glacier, Montana, to announce a $250,000 program grant for new, fuel-efficient buses to continue providing free shuttle service for park visitors, which helps to reduce traffic congestion along the park's 50-mile road.

"By taking cars off the road and reducing harmful emissions and pollutants in our nation's most natural and pristine settings, we're helping Americans and visitors from around the world enjoy these public lands as they were meant to be enjoyed," said Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff. "From new pedestrian walkways and bicycle trails to energy-efficient shuttle buses, these investments help to keep our parks sustainable for years to come."

The funds announced today are part of $80 million distributed to 134 Transit in the Parks projects across the country over the last three years. This grant program was not reauthorized under the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) which was passed by Congress last year. Going forward, public transportation projects serving national parks and other federal lands remain eligible for funding under the Federal Lands Transportation Program administered by the Federal Highway Administration.

A map and a complete list of projects can be found here.

###

U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood Announces $250,000 to Improve Transit Service in Montana's Glacier National Park

2/18/2013
Contact: Amy Bernstein
202-590-6615

WEST GLACIER, Mont. – U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood visited Montana today to announce that Glacier National Park will receive a $250,000 grant as part of the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Paul S. Sarbanes Transit in Parks program. The grant is one of 29 totaling $12.5 million that were awarded today. Secretary LaHood made the announcement, along with FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff, at the park's Apgar Transit Center.

"In his State of the Union address last week, President Obama called on us to upgrade our nation's transportation infrastructure to help grow our economy and improve energy efficiency," said Secretary LaHood. "Improving access to modern transit services in Glacier National Park and other scenic parklands around the country will help us preserve these national treasures for future generations."

The park's grant will help to replace aging passenger buses with two new American-made vehicles that operate with greater safety, comfort, and efficiency. The new vehicles will provide free shuttle service along the park's Going-to-the-Sun Road, and will help to alleviate parking shortages at Apgar Village and other sites within the park. The park receives nearly 35,000 daily visitors during the peak summer season.

"Visitors to Glacier National Park should be able to explore this stunning area without getting stuck in traffic or breathing harmful emissions," said Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff. "By modernizing transit in our parks, we're making it easier for people to get around, while ensuring that these areas are sustainable for years to come."

The funds announced today are part of $80 million distributed to 134 Transit in the Parks projects across the country over the last three years. This grant program was not reauthorized under the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) which was passed by Congress last year. Going forward, public transportation projects serving national parks and other federal lands remain eligible for funding under the Federal Lands Transportation Program administered by the Federal Highway Administration.

A map and a complete list of projects can be found here.

###

Federal Transit Administrator Rogoff Visits Orlando to Highlight Job-Creating Investments in Public Transportation

Administrator Makes $87.3 Million Available to Continue Building SunRail Commuter Rail Line

2/22/2013
Contact: Amy Bernstein
202-366-0706

ORLANDO, Fla. – Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff today visited the construction site of the new Florida Hospital SunRail transit station to highlight the significant economic impact that investments in public transportation can create in Central Florida and in cities and towns across the nation. Administrator Rogoff was joined by Senator Bill Nelson, Congresswoman Corrine Brown, and local officials.

"In his State of the Union Address to the nation earlier this month, President Obama called on us to reignite the true engine of America's economic growth – a rising, thriving middle class," said Secretary LaHood. "Investing in transportation projects like Central Florida's SunRail commuter line is a great way to reignite that engine, and keep the local economy growing."

The Florida Hospital rail station is one of 12 stations planned for the first phase of Central Florida's 32-mile SunRail commuter rail line. Construction of the rail line, which parallels the highly congested I-4

corridor in Orange, Seminole and Volusia counties, has put about 800 people to work and has spurred a $250 million investment in a 176-acre Health Village at Florida Hospital that will enable thousands of medical researchers, hospital employees, patients and their families to take transit to work or when seeking medical care. Across the entire rail line, more than two dozen retail, office, government, and residential development projects within a 10-minute walk of new transit stations are planned or under way representing about $1.6 billion in public and private investments altogether.

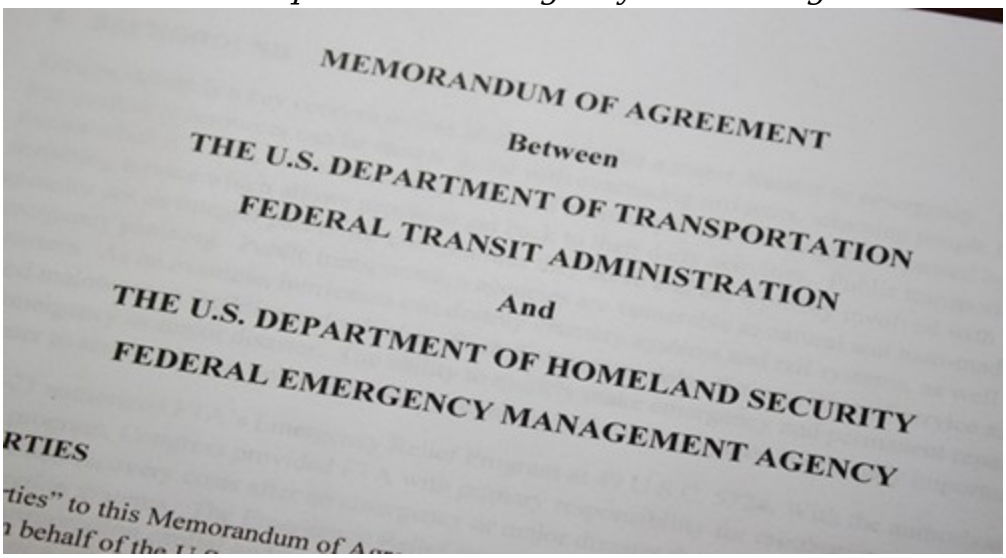
President Obama is committed to making the necessary investments in our transportation infrastructure to grow our economy from the middle class outward and reduce our reliance on foreign oil, said FTA Administrator Rogoff. The SunRail commuter line will do just that by connecting residents from DeBary to Sand Lake Road with the jobs and services they need, while opening doors to new opportunities across Central Florida.

During his visit, Administrator Rogoff announced that $87.3 million has been made available for the Central Florida SunRail project. In July 2011, FTA signed a construction grant agreement committing $178.6 million in New Starts funds, which is 50 percent of the total project cost. Today s funds bring FTA s total investment so far to $148.5 million in FY2012 and prior-year New Starts funds.

###

Federal Transit Administration, Federal Emergency Management Agency Sign Agreement Outlining Roles For Addressing Public Transit Needs Following Hurricane Sandy, Future Major Disasters

Interagency Agreement Marks Major Milestone in Development of FTA's New Public Transportation Emergency Relief Program



3/5/2013
Contact: Angela Gates
202-366-3669

WASHINGTON – The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) today signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that outlines the roles and responsibilities of both agencies in providing federal assistance to repair and restore public transportation systems in areas the President has declared a major disaster or emergency. FTA's newly authorized Public Transportation Emergency Relief Program was established by the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) and the MOA is required to establish the relief program.

"After disasters hit, our federal, state and local partners must be able to move quickly and make the necessary repairs to our nation's transit systems, roads, rails and bridges," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. "Today's announcement makes it easier for them to get to work, and DOT will continue to work closely with FEMA and our partners to ensure that emergency relief funds are available as quickly as possible to rebuild from Hurricane Sandy."

The MOA is a key requirement that must be in place before the bulk of the FTA's disaster relief funds for Hurricane Sandy aid can be released, as prescribed by the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act of 2013 for the victims of Hurricane Sandy. A link to the MOA is available here.

"We can only be successful in responding and recovering from disasters if we work as a team," said FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate. "That means bringing together government at the federal, state, tribal and local levels, along with our partners outside of government. This partnership with FTA builds on an already strong relationship to ensure that our transit nationwide is more resilient."

"More than one-third of our nation's transit riders were directly affected by Hurricane Sandy—triggering the worst transit disaster in history," said FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff. "FTA and FEMA worked quickly to get this agreement in place in order to bring much needed relief to transit agencies that were hit hardest by the storm, to ensure that transit riders have the reliable service they need, and so that agencies have better resources to plan for and mitigate the impact of such disasters in the future."

FEMA will continue to have primary federal responsibility for emergency preparedness, response and recovery in major disasters and emergencies. The new emergency relief authority provides FTA with primary responsibility for reimbursing emergency response and recovery costs after an emergency or disaster that affects public transportation systems and for helping to mitigate the impact of future disasters.

FTA continues to work collaboratively with FEMA to conduct damage assessments and cost-validation work in the hardest-hit parts of New York and New Jersey, as well as other regions where transit was impacted.

The Disaster Relief Appropriations Act of 2013, which President Obama signed into law on January 29, required the FTA to make available no more than $2 billion in disaster funds within 60 days of enactment of the disaster relief appropriation, which the agency is currently doing. The remaining funds required a MOA between FEMA and FTA and the establishment of emergency relief program regulations by FTA.

With the MOA complete, the remaining disaster relief funds will be made available after FTA issues interim regulations, which is expected to occur in April.

###

U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Allocates $390 Million to Reimburse Transit Agencies in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania Recovering from Hurricane Sandy

3/6/2013
Contact: Amy Bernstein
202-366-0706

WASHINGTON – U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today announced the allocation of nearly $390 million in FY 2013 Disaster Relief Appropriations Act funds to reimburse the New York Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) and the Port Authority Trans-Hudson Corp. (PATH). The Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) received a smaller reimbursement for expenses incurred while preparing for and recovering from Hurricane Sandy.

The Disaster Relief Appropriations Act authorized a total of $10.9 billion, which is now reduced by 5 percent, or $545 million, because of the mandatory budget cuts known as sequestration that took effect on March 1.

"When Hurricane Sandy devastated public transportation systems in New York and New Jersey, President Obama pledged to act swiftly to help restore service for millions of riders and help the region's transit agencies recover economically," said Secretary LaHood. "The funds allocated today will offset the emergency expenditures these agencies incurred while taking heroic measures to protect people and equipment and return to normal operations."

The funds are the first to be allocated as part of the disaster relief package enacted on January 29, 2013, for the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Public Transportation Emergency Relief Program, which allows FTA to make grants for eligible public transportation capital and operating costs in the event of a federally declared disaster. Up to $2 billion of this aid must be made available no later than March 30, 2013. Additional requests for reimbursement will be reviewed on a rolling basis and FTA will announce new funding allocations in the coming days.

"These emergency relief funds are rapidly reimbursing the impacted transit systems following the greatest transit disaster in our nation's history. At the height of the storm, more than 40 percent of our nation's transit service was suspended." said Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff. "The sooner we reimburse transit systems for the measures taken to minimize the damage and re-establish service, the sooner they can focus on long-term plans to strengthen transit infrastructure and protect against future disasters."

The $390 million allocated today will reimburse for labor, materials, and capital costs incurred to protect vehicles, facilities, and infrastructure; conduct emergency operations, including temporary transit service; and make immediate and permanent repairs, as follows:

- The New York MTA is receiving $193,136,983 for repair and restoration of the East River tunnels; the South Ferry/Whitehall station; the Rockaway line; rail yards, maintenance shops, and other facilities; and heavy rail cars. The funds support work by New York City Transit; the Staten Island, Long Island, and Metro-North railroads; and MTA Bus.
- The PATH is receiving funds for two sets of projects: (1) $141,506,347 for efforts undertaken to address the storm's catastrophic impact on commuter rail service between New York and New Jersey (including the Hoboken-World Trade Center service and service between Hudson and Essex counties in New Jersey and Manhattan). Funds were expended to set up alternative commuter service; repair electric substations and signal infrastructure; replace and repair rolling stock; and repair maintenance facilities. (2) $54,243,826 for the World Trade Center Hub project, which was inundated by approximately 125 million gallons of tidal water. Recovery efforts included pumping; cleaning up debris; and repairing or replacing damaged and destroyed equipment, such as electrical switchgear and substation equipment.
- SEPTA is receiving $1,192,568 related to securing and protecting transit service serving Philadelphia and the counties of Bucks, Chester, Delaware, and Montgomery prior to the storm; emergency activities during and after the storm to resume service as quickly as

possible; and enhanced customer service to communicate with the public when service was suspended or resumed.

The Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) authorized FTA's Emergency Relief Program, granting FTA the primary responsibility for reimbursing emergency response and recovery costs after an emergency or major disaster that affects public transportation systems. On February 6, 2013, FTA issued a notice of funding availability outlining three eligible categories of funding for which applicants affected by Hurricane Sandy could request reimbursement through the new program.

###

U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Visits Ohio to Highlight Public Transportation's Role in Job Creation

3/8/2013
Contact: Angela Gates
202-366-3669

KENT, Ohio – U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today visited the construction site of the Kent Central Gateway multimodal transit center to highlight the significant economic impact of the Obama Administration's investments in public transportation in Ohio and cities and towns around the nation. Secretary LaHood was joined by Congressman Tim Ryan, Kent Mayor Jerry Fiala and local officials.

"As President Obama said in his State of the Union Address, we know that CEOs – not to mention students and local residents – want modern transportation infrastructure," said Secretary LaHood. "Investing in transportation projects like Ohio's Kent Central Gateway transit center gives them what they want and is a great way to help keep Kent's economy growing."

The new multimodal transit center is at the heart of local efforts to dramatically transform the City of Kent's downtown core into a thriving employment, business and cultural center with the goal of encouraging some of Kent State University's 20,000 students to remain in town after graduation. The facility is central to a larger effort by the city, university and private developers to invest roughly $125 million to develop over 200,000 square feet of office and retail space, a new hotel and conference center and a new county courthouse—all within walking distance of the Gateway facility.

According to the Portage Area Regional Transportation Authority, more than 250 jobs have been created during construction of the project, which is expected to be completed this summer.

"Kent is a winning example of how when transit is done right it can serve as the epicenter of community and economic redevelopment," said FTA Administrator Rogoff." "The Kent Gateway transit center will do just that by creating a vibrant downtown area that offers residents and students easy access to jobs, services, housing and educational opportunities on campus."

The new transit center will provide improved access between downtown Kent and the university, and serve as a key transfer location for regional bus routes, connecting riders to Akron, Cleveland and other locations in Portage County. The facility, which is expected to open this summer, will also include pedestrian and bicycle connections to provide additional options for residents and visitors to get around.

In 2010, the U.S. Department of Transportation awarded $20 million to the Kent Central Gateway project through DOT's highly competitive Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant program.

During the past four years, DOT has provided $3.1 billion to 218 projects in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico through the TIGER grant program. Demand for the program has been overwhelming. In four rounds, DOT received more than 4,050 applications requesting more than $105.2 billion for transportation projects across the country.

###

U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Announces $164.2 Million to Reimburse Transit Agencies in New Jersey, New York and Connecticut Recovering from Hurricane Sandy

Federal Transit Administration surpasses half-billion dollars in emergency allocations

3/19/2013
Contact: Angela Gates
202-366-3669

WASHINGTON – U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today announced the second allocation of Federal Transit Administration (FTA) storm-related aid through the FY 2013 Disaster Relief Appropriations Act. The $164.2 million allocated today includes $163.4 million to reimburse New Jersey Transit Corporation (NJT), the Port Authority Trans-Hudson Corp. (PATH) and the New York Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) for expenses incurred while preparing for and recovering from Hurricane Sandy. The City of Long Beach and Westchester County in New York and the Milford Transit District in Connecticut received reimbursements totaling an additional $841,000.

"In keeping with our pledge to help transit agencies make a full recovery from Hurricane Sandy, we are moving quickly to get disaster relief funds out the door as soon as possible," said Secretary LaHood. "President Obama has called on us to invest in our nation's infrastructure—and that includes ensuring that our transit systems are in good working order and ready to meet riders' needs safely and efficiently."

This second round of federal transit funds are part of the FTA's Public Transportation Emergency Relief Program, which allows FTA to reimburse eligible public transportation capital and operating costs in the event of a federally declared disaster.

A total of $10.9 billion was appropriated for the program under the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, which was signed into law by President Obama on January 29, 2013. However, this funding is now reduced by 5 percent, or $545 million, because of the mandatory budget cuts known as sequestration that took effect on March 1.

"In just over six weeks since President Obama signed the disaster relief bill into law, the FTA has responsibly allocated more than half a billion dollars to reimburse transit agencies most impacted by Hurricane Sandy," said

FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff. “With millions of commuters using these systems each day and transit ridership approaching record highs across the nation, we must ensure that these systems are fully restored and protected from future disasters.”

The $164,228,214 allocated today will reimburse for labor, materials and capital costs incurred to protect vehicles, facilities and infrastructure; conduct emergency operations, including temporary transit service; and make immediate and permanent repairs, as follows:

- NJT is receiving $144,416,559 for repair and replacement of equipment and facilities that suffered extensive damage by Hurricane Sandy, restoration of bus service, and emergency bus and special ferry operations to transport NJT passengers to and from Manhattan until rail service and tunnel operations could be restored. Funds will be used to repair extensive damage due to flooding to facilities, rail infrastructure and equipment, including Hoboken Yard and Terminal, maintenance facilities and power substations, the Hudson-Bergen Light Rail Line, Newark City Subway Light Rail System, North Jersey Coast Commuter Rail Line and Gladstone Branch Commuter Rail Line.
- PATH is receiving an additional allocation of $18,213,824 following FTA’s first allocation of $141,506,347 on March 6. This brings the total amount reimbursed to PATH to $159,720,171. The funds are for efforts undertaken to address the storm’s catastrophic impact on commuter rail service between New York and New Jersey (including the Hoboken-World Trade Center and service between Hudson and Essex counties in New Jersey and Manhattan). Funds were expended to set up alternative commuter service; repair electric substations and signal infrastructure; replace and repair rolling stock; and repair maintenance facilities.
- New York MTA is receiving an additional allocation of $756,915 following FTA’s first allocation of $193,136,983 on March 6. This brings the total amount reimbursed to the MTA to $193,893,898. The funds are for repair and restoration of the Easter River tunnels; the South Ferry/Whitehall station; the Rockaway line; rail yards, maintenance shops, and other facilities; and heavy rail cars. The funds support work by New York City Transit; the Staten Island, Long Island, and Metro-North railroads; and MTA Bus.
- The City of Long Beach is receiving $518,364 for emergency protective measures taken, such as evacuating residents to shelters, moving transit equipment to protect against the storm, providing additional transit service in place of the disabled Long Island Rail Road, and emergency repairs to buses damaged by salt water erosion.
- “Westchester County is receiving $317,200 for emergency protective measures to minimize the impact of extreme weather on the Bee-Line bus system, such as surveying roads for closure and maintaining

personnel onsite at transit garages, as well as restoring service following the storm.

- ﷺThe Milford Transit District is receiving $5,352 for operating expenses associated with evacuations, transporting residents for the City of Milford﷽s Safe and Warm Program in areas without power, and for debris removal.

The Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) authorized FTA﷽s Emergency Relief Program, granting FTA the primary responsibility for reimbursing emergency response and recovery costs after an emergency or major disaster that affects public transportation systems. On February 6, 2013, FTA issued a notice of funding availability outlining three eligible categories of funding for which applicants affected by Hurricane Sandy could request reimbursement through the new program. FTA announced the first round of reimbursements on March 6. Up to $2 billion of this aid must be made available no later than March 30, 2013. Additional requests for reimbursement will be reviewed on a rolling basis.

###

U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Announces $1.42 Billion to Help Transit Agencies Recover From Hurricane Sandy

FTA meets deadline to get first $2 billion in aid to storm's hardest-hit communities

3/29/2013
Contact: Amy Bernstein
202-366-0706

WASHINGTON — U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today announced a third round of Federal Transit Administration (FTA) storm-related reimbursements through the FY 2013 Disaster Relief Appropriations Act. The majority of the $1.4 billion announced today goes to the four transit agencies that incurred the greatest expenses while preparing for and recovering from Hurricane Sandy—the New York Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), the Port Authority Trans-Hudson Corp. (PATH), New Jersey Transit (NJT), and the New York City Department of Transportation (NYC DOT). The remainder will be allocated to other transit agencies that incurred eligible storm-related expenses but have not yet received funds.

"Shortly after Hurricane Sandy made landfall, President Obama and I promised that we would do everything in our power to bring relief to the hardest-hit communities, and that is exactly what we have done," said Secretary LaHood. "In less than two months' time, we met our commitment to provide $2 billion to more than a dozen transit agencies that suffered serious storm damage, and laid the groundwork to continue helping them rebuild stronger than before."

A total of $10.9 billion was appropriated for the disaster relief effort, which is administered through FTA's Emergency Relief Program. (This amount was reduced by 5 percent, or $545 million, because of the mandatory sequestration budget cut that took effect on March 1.) Earlier this month, FTA allocated nearly $554 million of the first $2 billion in aid to reimburse certain transit providers in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Connecticut. With today's allocation, FTA has now met the 60-day Congressional deadline to get the initial funds out the door in order to reimburse hard-hit transit agencies for expenses incurred while preparing for and recovering from the storm.

"Considering that over a third of America's transit riders use the systems most heavily damaged by Hurricane Sandy, it is imperative that we continue

this rapid progress to restore these systems in the tri-state region,&#65533; said FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff.

The remainder of the $10.9 billion will be utilized for ongoing recovery efforts as well as to help agencies become more resilient in the face of future storms and disasters. The FTA has published an&#65533;Interim Final Rule (PDF) in the Federal Register this week for FTA&#65533;s Emergency Relief Program outlining general requirements that apply to all the funds allocated related to Sandy and future grants awarded under this program.

A summary of how the funds announced today are to be allocated is described below. A more detailed breakdown, and information on eligibility requirements, appears in the Federal Register (PDF):

- $1.4 billion in disaster relief aid primarily to assist the transit agencies that incurred the greatest storm-related expenditures: the New York MTA, the PATH, New Jersey Transit (NJT), and the NYC DOT. These funds are made available on a pro-rated basis, based on damage and cost assessments FTA has made with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the transit agencies themselves.
- A separate $21.9 million allocation to reimburse the NYC DOT as part of a consolidated request with other entities for various activities prior, during, and after the storm to protect the Staten Island Ferry, its equipment, and personnel, the East River Ferry service, and Governors Island, including the public island&#65533;s Battery Maritime Building ferry waiting room. Emergency measures included moving transit equipment to higher ground, operating ferry vessels at berths to prevent damage; debris removal; reestablishing public transportation service; protecting, preparing and securing Ferry Terminals at St. George and Whitehall, facilities and offices to address potential flooding; staffing and operating ferryboats at berths to prevent damage; and performing shelter-in-place operations for worker protection during the storm.
- $422,895 to reimburse four additional transit agencies for expenses incurred preparing for and recovering from the storm. These are the Greater Bridgeport Transit District ($21,783); the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority ($344,311); the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority ($1,179) and the Connecticut Department of Transportation, which is receiving $55,622 just for CTTransit bus-related expenses, as FTA previously allocated $2.8 million to MTA for Metro-North rail service serving southwestern Connecticut.

A table listing total allocations for funding recipients to date and a summary of their reimbursable expenditures is available here.

###

U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood Applauds the Opening of Denver's New West Light Rail Line

4/26/2013
Contact: Allison Lantero
202-366-8224

DENVER – U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today applauded the grand opening of the new 12.1-mile West Rail line, the first light rail line that is part of the Denver Regional Transit District's (RTD) multibillion-dollar transit expansion plan known as FasTracks.–– Roughly half of the $709.8 million West Rail Line project is funded by the Department's Federal Transit Administration through a $308.7 million federal construction grant agreement awarded in 2009 and other U.S. Department of Transportation funds.

"The Obama Administration has made a significant commitment to invest in a public transportation network that helps millions of families, seniors, veterans and others living in the greater Denver region to access the jobs and services they need to participate in their communities," said Secretary LaHood. "Bringing good transportation projects like this one to Denver and to cities across the nation, creates jobs and strengthens our economy."

Secretary LaHood toured the project last year while it was under construction.

The West Line stations include stops near employment hubs like Denver Federal Center and Jefferson County Government Center as well as the Auraria Higher Education Campus and Red Rocks Community College, which together serve over 50,000 students." In addition, St. Anthony's Hospital recently relocated in part to be closer to the new transit line, offering medical professionals and patients the opportunity to park at one of six new park-and-ride lots along the route and then hop aboard the light rail.

"The opening of the West Rail line brings Denver a step closer to delivering on its promise to provide hundreds of thousands of riders in one of the nation's fastest growing cities a truly world-class public transportation system," said Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff." "Hard-working families, students, and seniors alike can spend less time in traffic and less money at the pump."

The FasTracks expansion plan will add 122 miles of new commuter rail and light rail and 18 miles of bus rapid transit across the eight-county district to help Denver successfully manage growth and compete for business for years to come.

Other FasTracks projects the Obama Administration has helped fund include a $1 billion agreement signed in August 2011 for the Eagle P3, a 30-mile commuter rail project that will provide the city's first transit connection to Denver International Airport and put an estimated 4,700 people to work. The Administration has also provided funding from a number of sources for the restoration of Denver's historic Union Station, the centerpiece of FasTracks, including $28.4 million from the Recovery Act, $59.5 million in other federal grants, and more than $300 million in federal loans.

The Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Regional Administrator Linda Gehrke joined Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper, Senator Michael Bennet, and local officials at the event.

###

U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Applauds Groundbreaking of Light Rail Extension Serving South King County Riders

4/26/2013
Contact: Angela Gates
202-366-3669

SEATTLE – U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today applauded the groundbreaking to extend Link light rail service from Seattle-Tacoma (Sea-Tac) International Airport to South 200th Street in the City of SeaTac. The 1.6-mile extension will make it easier for thousands of residents in south King County to access major employment and education centers throughout the region, including Sea-Tac Airport, downtown Seattle and the University of Washington.

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) is providing $28.6 million for the project, including $18.6 million in Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and other DOT funds and $10 million through the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant program.

"The Link light rail extension is the latest in a series of investments by the Obama Administration to help the Seattle region build a world-class public transportation system," said Secretary LaHood. "Bringing good transportation projects like this one to Seattle, and to cities across the nation, creates jobs and strengthens our economy."

The project will extend Link light rail service about 1.6 miles south from the existing Sea-Tac/Airport Station to a new Angle Lake Station at South 200th Street. Sound Transit officials expect the project to create roughly 150 jobs during the first six months of construction. Service is scheduled to begin in late 2016 with an estimated 5,400 daily riders.

"Extending light rail through south King County is great news for a community that's not only home to one of the fastest growing airports in the country, but also to a growing transit-dependent population looking for affordable, reliable access to jobs, school, and medical care," said Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff. "This project reflects the Seattle region's tremendous commitment to investing in a public transportation system that works for everyone."

The light rail extension is the latest in a series of transit investments that FTA is making in the future of the Seattle region's transportation network. In addition to today's project, FTA has committed $967 million for three

light rail projects under construction or in design—from the University of Washington to Northgate transit center in north Seattle; from downtown Seattle to the University of Washington via Capitol Hill; and from downtown Seattle to the City of Bellevue in East King County (the East Link extension). FTA is providing an additional $118 million for six RapidRide bus rapid transit (BRT) lines in King County, four of which are now in service.

The Federal Transit Administration's Regional Administrator Rick Krochalis joined Senator Patty Murray, Governor Jay Inslee and other local officials at the event.

###

Federal Transit Administrator on Hand to Celebrate Completion of Columbus Plaza Rehabilitation Project, Improved Access to Union Station

5/2/2013
Contact: Angela Gates
202-366-3669

WASHINGTON – Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff today attended the ribbon cutting for the completed renovation of Union Station's Columbus Plaza, a $10.8 million project that received nearly $5.9 million in funding from the Department's Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Administrator Rogoff was joined at the ceremony by Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, D.C. Mayor Vincent Gray and others.

"Union Station is the gateway to our nation's capital and an important part of President Obama's vision for a revitalized Northeast Corridor," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. "This investment in Columbus Plaza is part of a long-term effort to transform Union Station into a transportation hub that's ready to provide 21st century rail services to meet the needs of millions of travelers who pass through this station each year."

FTA funding helped provide roadway, sidewalk and security improvements, and new traffic patterns that improve access to the station for pedestrians, bicyclists, public transit buses, taxis, tour buses and private vehicles. The

remaining costs were covered by the Union Station Redevelopment Corporation (USRC), the National Park Service, the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) and Amtrak.

"In operation for more than a century, Union Station is the second busiest intercity rail hub in the nation and the busiest station in the D.C. Metrorail system," said Administrator Rogoff. "We must continue to invest in modernizing and upgrading transit facilities like this one across the country, to meet rising demand for safe, reliable, and efficient transit choices."

The Columbus Plaza project is one of several initiatives that will continue to position Union Station as a cutting edge multi-modal transportation hub and unique retail destination. Amtrak announced in 2012 a Master Plan to transform Union Station over the next 20 years into a world-class facility with expanded capacity for future high-speed, intercity and commuter rail improvements. In addition, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority is working with Amtrak and USRC to expand Metrorail station capacity and design improvements to the 1st Street entrance to provide a direct link to intercity bus service and new streetcar service. DDOT expects to begin operating the streetcar along H Street and Benning Road in late 2013.

President Obama's proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2014 includes $9 billion in immediate transportation investments to bring aging transit facilities around the nation into a state of good repair through the Administration's "Fix it First" initiative.

###

U.S. Department of Transportation Announces Availability of $21.9 Million to Help States Strengthen Transit Safety Oversight

Policy also adopted to help states, transit agencies better manage safety responsibilities under MAP-21

5/13/2013
Contact: Amy Bernstein
202-366-0706

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) Federal Transit Administration (FTA) today announced that, for the first time, it is making $21.9 million available to help strengthen public transportation safety for millions of riders and transit workers nationwide. In addition to the funds, the agency also announced a flexible new policy, known as Safety Management Systems (SMS), which DOT has officially adopted to help guide states and transit agencies alike in managing safety risks in a proactive, cost-effective way.

Together, these efforts reflect FTA's commitment to begin implementing long-sought federal authority for transit safety granted under the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) and help states and transit agencies begin meeting new safety-related responsibilities. This represents a fundamental shift in the way FTA and states will work together to ensure the safety of public transportation across the nation.

"Maintaining the safety of our nation's transportation systems has always been our number-one priority," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. "We take our new responsibility to oversee transit safety as seriously as we do for railways, roadways, runways, and we will continue to find innovative ways to make transit even safer for the public and our workforce."

As part of FTA's new regulatory safety authority, every state with a rail fixed guideway public transportation system not subject to regulation by the Federal Railroad Administration must establish a state safety oversight agency (SSOA) that is legally and financially independent of the rail transit systems the SSOA will oversee, and states must ensure that their SSOAs have adequate authority and resources to oversee rail systems safety.

"FTA's new safety authority marks a significant change in how we do business going forward to keep transit travel safe for millions of riders and transit workers," said FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff. "We are working

closely with state leaders, the transit industry, and trusted safety experts to build a foundation for common-sense policies and procedures that take into account the unique needs and circumstances of each transit agency.

A notice in today's Federal Register (PDF) providing FTA's Fiscal Year 2013 apportionment includes the proposed apportionment for the state safety oversight funds. As indicated in the notice, FTA seeks to ensure that, in order to meet these new requirements, each eligible state should receive a minimum funding level for designated SSOAs.

In August 2012, Secretary LaHood informed the governors of eligible states (PDF) that they are required to provide a 20 percent match for these funds. The notice also describes the steps applicants must take, in consultation with FTA, to be ready to receive the funds and demonstrate compliance with new statutory requirements for safety oversight. The public is invited to comment on the proposed allocation of funds.

With respect to FTA's adoption of a strategic framework for strengthening transit safety overall, SMS is a collaborative approach that brings management and labor together to build on the transit industry's existing safety foundation to control risk better, detect and correct safety problems earlier, share and analyze safety data more effectively, and measure safety performance more carefully. Additional information on SMS is available here.

###

Federal Transit Deputy Administrator McMillan Celebrates Updated, Fully ADA-Compliant Primos Rail Station Near Philadelphia

5/16/2013
Contact: Amy Bernstein
202-366-0706

DELAWARE COUNTY, PA.�Federal Transit Deputy Administrator Therese McMillan today attended a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the newly modernized and rehabilitated Primos Station�a busy transit rail station in suburban Philadelphia�s Clifton Heights neighborhood that is part of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) system. The station upgrades include making the station compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and adding parking spaces for commuters.

�All across the United States, this Administration is committed to bringing aging transit facilities like SEPTA�s Primos Station into a state of good repair,� said U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. �Investing in our nation�s public transportation infrastructure improves access to jobs, reduces congestion on our roadways, and keeps our economy moving forward.�

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) provided approximately $5.2 million toward the $8.3 million project. The remaining funds were provided by state and local government. The station, which hosts roughly 700 rail transit trips each week day, is served by SEPTA�s Media/Elwyn Regional Rail Line, as well as the Route 107 bus. Improvements include a new

inbound station building with ticket office and waiting area, new high-level accessible platforms and ADA-compliant stairways and ramps with handrails and guard rails. Other improvements include a modern new passenger shelter, new bike racks and new platform lighting and signage. The project also expands an existing parking lot adjacent to the station along Secane Avenue, which will add 55 new parking spaces upon completion later this summer.

"These improvements on one of the nation's oldest transit rail lines make it easier, safer and more convenient than ever for commuters, seniors, families with young children, people with disabilities and others to take the train downtown to get to work, to visit shops and restaurants and to reach other destinations," said FTA Deputy Administrator McMillan.

Since 2009, FTA has awarded approximately $1.06 billion to SEPTA for a range of transit rail and bus projects to bring one of the nation's largest and oldest transit systems into a state of good repair. This includes funds for renovating Wayne Junction Substation and major transit stations—such as City Hall, Girard, and Spring Garden stations—and replacing aging commuter rail vehicles.

###

U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Announces $3.7 Billion in Additional Hurricane Sandy Disaster Relief Aid for Transit Agencies

$1.3 billion will help hardest-hit NY, NJ agencies deal with future disasters

5/23/2013
Contact: Amy Bernstein
202-366-0706

WASHINGTON – U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today announced an additional $3.7 billion in disaster relief funds to help the four major transit agencies in New York and New Jersey that sustained the greatest damage from Hurricane Sandy.

In addition to supporting ongoing post-storm recovery work, nearly one-third of the money, made available through the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Emergency Relief Program, is set aside to help the agencies begin investing in resiliency projects to help ensure that their transit assets – from trains and buses to stations and subway tunnels – are better able to withstand future disasters, such as major floods.

"We continue to work closely with the transit agencies hit hardest by Hurricane Sandy to ensure they can recover from this terrible disaster and emerge stronger than before," said Secretary LaHood. "The millions of riders in New York and New Jersey deserve a robust public transportation network that can deliver the service they depend on every day."

A notice published in the Federal Register next week (on view here) will provide a breakdown of how the funds are allocated to the Metropolitan Transportation Authority of New York, the New York City Department of Transportation, New Jersey Transit and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. Of the $3.7 billion in disaster relief funds announced today, $2.4 billion is allocated for recovery and rebuilding projects, while $1.3 billion is dedicated to increasing the transit systems' resiliency in the face of future disasters.

Today's announcement of $3.7 billion in disaster assistance brings the total dollars allocated by FTA so far for all Sandy recovery activities to $5.7 billion, and is just the latest step by the administration to support the ongoing recovery of the communities impacted. Beyond the funds provided by FTA, the administration has provided over $5.4 billion in community development block grants and over $1.3 billion in FEMA assistance provided directly to impacted families, covering eligible repair costs and meeting temporary housing needs, as well as over $1 billion in FEMA funds to support state and local rebuilding efforts.

Before submitting grant applications for the newly announced funds, the transit agencies are required to develop a list of eligible projects and work with FTA to meet eligibility requirements.

"We have learned from the back-to-back impacts of Hurricanes Irene and Sandy that it is vitally important to prepare for the future," said FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff. "Investing in the strength of the region's transit infrastructure now will help reduce the impact of travel delays, disruptions, and economic losses when the next big storm hits."

Examples of resiliency projects may include elevating storm drains to reduce the volume of water that pours into stations below street level, installing higher capacity water pumps and installing back-up sources of power for lighting, flood pumps and other necessities. Because a significant portion of the seriously damaged transit infrastructure was already aging and technically obsolete, FTA will fund repair and replacement projects that bring transit assets up to a state of good repair.

The FY 2013 Disaster Relief Appropriations Act authorized $10.9 billion in recovery assistance for transit agencies adversely affected by Hurricane Sandy, which was the worst transit-related disaster in U.S. history, affecting roughly one-third of all transit riders. This amount was reduced by 5 percent, or $545 million, because of the mandatory sequestration budget cut that took effect on March 1. The funds are administered by FTA through its new Emergency Relief Program under the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21).

In March, FTA announced the allocation of the first $2 billion of these funds, which included $576.6 million to affected agencies based on specific emergency response and recovery costs incurred or budgeted to date and $1.4 billion primarily to assist the four transit agencies named above as the most severely affected, based on their projected overall recovery costs.

FTA will continue to work with the affected transit agencies and will make additional Disaster Relief Act funds available for additional recovery and resiliency projects on a competitive basis in the future.

Additional information on FTA's Emergency Relief Program and Hurricane Sandy-related financial assistance is available here.

###

Federal Transit Administration Celebrates Opening of Worcester Union Station Bus Hub, Improving Transit Connections for Riders in New England

5/28/2013
Contact: Angela Gates
202-366-3669

WORCESTER, Mass. – The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) applauded today's opening of the new Worcester Regional Transit Authority (WRTA) Union Station Bus Hub, a state-of-the-art facility that will improve transportation connections at the city's historic Union Station and link transit riders to numerous destinations throughout Central Massachusetts, New England and the Northeast Corridor. FTA Deputy Regional Administrator Peter Butler joined state and local officials at the event.

"President Obama is committed to modernizing our nation's transportation infrastructure and bringing more transportation choices to more Americans," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood, who visited the project last year. "This investment in Worcester will ensure that transit riders have convenient and reliable access to 21st century transportation services for years to come."

The WRTA Transportation Hub replaces the transit agency's administrative office and transfer center, previously located several blocks away, with a brand new facility at Union Station. The new hub offers riders

a direct connection to other transportation services, including the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) commuter rail to Boston, Amtrak, and intercity bus service.

"Worcester's new transportation hub is a huge win for transit riders, offering a seamless connection between bus and rail service in New England's second largest city after Boston," said Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff. "With the addition of WRTA bus service at Union Station, hard-working families, students and other riders will have even more options for getting to work, school, medical appointments and elsewhere in Central Massachusetts and beyond."

The 14,000 square foot facility includes eight bus bays to accommodate the more than 200 WRTA buses that service the station each day. A new passenger waiting area is also part of the facility. WRTA provides transit service for more than 14,000 riders on an average weekday and 3.5 million riders per year.

FTA provided $15.9 million toward the $16.3 million project, with the state covering the remainder.

###

Federal Transit Administration Celebrates Groundbreaking of New Transit District Project in Uptown Cincinnati

5/31/2013
Contact: Allison Lantero
202-366-8224

Cincinnati, Ohio – The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) applauded today's groundbreaking of the Uptown Transit District, a series of new bus stations and customer-friendly transit upgrades that will improve connections to jobs, medical appointments, schools, and entertainment venues in Cincinnati's fast-growing business district. FTA and DOT provided $5.4 million toward the $6.9 million project. The remaining funds were provided by local government.

"The Obama Administration is committed to modernizing the transit services that many people depend on in cities like Cincinnati and throughout the United States," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. "These investments will help attract a new generation of riders to public transit and contribute to Cincinnati's economic revitalization."

When completed in late 2013 or early 2014, the Uptown Transit District, operated by the Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority (SORTA), will consist of four new bus stations in an area with one of the highest traffic volumes in Cincinnati. Developed in partnership with the University of Cincinnati, the Uptown Consortium, and the City of Cincinnati, the Uptown

Transit District will serve as a major connection for nine SORTA Metro bus routes and several Uptown shuttles offered by the University of Cincinnati and area employers.

"The Uptown Transit District project will provide roughly 60,000 daily commuters with more transportation choices in one of the fastest growing business corridors in Cincinnati and the region," said FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff. "These improvements will also make it more convenient for parents without access to a car to take their children to a pediatrician at the Children's Hospital or for college students to get to class."

The four stations will be located at the University of Cincinnati on Jefferson; the medical center district near University Hospital and Cincinnati Children's Hospital; and the Clifton Heights business district; and on Vine between McMillian and Calhoun. The route offers riders seamless connections to Uptown neighborhoods, medical campuses, the University of Cincinnati, the Cincinnati Zoo, and area businesses in the expanding corridor. The new stations will also provide sheltered boarding areas, real-time bus tracking information, and rider information kiosks.

###

Federal Transit Administration Awards $646,500 to Help Veterans, Military Families Access Transportation Services in New Mexico

6/6/2013
Contact: Angela Gates
202-366-3669

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) today obligated two grants totaling $646,500 to the New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) and the Mid-Region Council of Governments (MRCOG) to help veterans and their families find affordable rides to work, school, medical care and other destinations in central and northern New Mexico. FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff, joined by local officials and veterans, made the announcement at the New Mexico Veterans' Memorial near Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque.

"Ensuring that our veterans and military families have access to quality, convenient transportation is just one way we can thank them for their service," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. "In New Mexico and across the country, we're helping to provide the men and women who have served our country with the jobs and training opportunities they deserve, as well as access to the medical care and other services they need."

FTA first announced the selection of the two New Mexico projects in July 2012 and today's announcement marks the official release of the funds to

NMDOT and MRCOG. NMDOT is receiving $364,000 to upgrade a regional call center in the Santa Fe area and MRCOG is receiving $282,500 to launch a new web site in Albuquerque. Both efforts will provide one-call or one-click access to information that makes it easy for veterans, military families and others to arrange and connect to transportation options throughout the state.

"Santa Fe, Albuquerque and the surrounding counties are home to roughly 155,000 veterans and thousands more active duty military personnel and families who need and deserve access to reliable transportation options to get to work, medical care and other destinations," said Administrator Rogoff. "This investment will also ensure that spouses and children of deployed service members have access to transportation options here at home while their loved ones are stationed abroad."

MRCOG is working with a number of local partners to develop and implement the new transportation web site, expected to launch next year. The site will consolidate information that is currently fragmented and difficult to navigate into one web site that offers easy access to various transportation services throughout the Albuquerque region.

NMDOT is working with the North Central Regional Transit District to purchase software that will help provide a more accurate way to schedule on-demand service for people with disabilities and wheelchair users, including veterans. In addition, NMDOT is working with the City of Santa Fe to upgrade the city's existing transportation call center. The upgrades will enable callers to obtain real-time information on NMDOT Park & Ride bus stop arrivals and will also improve access for people with disabilities.

The Veterans Transportation and Community Living Initiative was developed by the Federal Interagency Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility, a permanent partnership of federal departments working together to better coordinate federal programs on behalf of people with disabilities, older adults and individuals with lower incomes. The Council is chaired by Secretary LaHood.

The grants are provided through the FTA Veterans Transportation and Community Living Initiative, which, including the grants obligated today, awarded $63.6 million in Fiscal Years 2011 and 2012 for 119 innovative projects serving veterans and others around the country.

###

Federal Transit Administration Celebrates Opening of Kearney Transit Facility, Improving Transit Service for Riders in Rural Nebraska

6/7/2013
Contact: Angela Gates
202-366-3669

KEARNEY, Neb. • The U.S. Department of Transportation•s Federal Transit Administration (FTA) celebrated today•s opening of the new R.Y.D.E. (Reach Your Destination Easily) Transit Facility, which will provide reliable transit service for hundreds of daily riders in rural central Nebraska and significantly improve maintenance and operations of RYDE Transit vehicles. FTA Regional Administrator Mokhtee Ahmad joined state and local officials at the event.

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) provided nearly 100 percent of the funding for the $4.5 million facility, plus approximately $239,000 for related technology upgrades. Of the total from DOT, $4.4 million was provided through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

•President Obama is committed to modernizing our nation•s transportation infrastructure and bringing more transportation choices to more Americans,• said U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. •This investment in Kearney will provide transit riders with convenient and reliable access to 21st century transportation services for years to come.•

The new 27,000 square-foot-facility will provide climate-controlled bus storage and maintenance areas for up to 24 transit vehicles and house RYDE Transit's regional offices. This will be a vast improvement to maintain RYDE Transit's fleet of vehicles, which were previously parked outside and exposed to inclement weather, leading to increased wear and tear on the vehicles. In addition, federal funding is being used to upgrade technology used to schedule rides and provide drivers with route changes and GPS-based routing all of which translates to more efficient transit service for riders.

"Maintaining our nation's transit vehicles and equipment in a state of good repair is just as important for bus riders in rural locations like Kearney as it is for transit riders in Cleveland, New York or Boston," said Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff. "Kearney's new transportation facility will help keep transit vehicles operating in good condition and ensure residents have reliable transit options to get to downtown, Good Samaritan Hospital, Hilltop Mall, University of Nebraska at Kearney and elsewhere."

R.Y.D.E. Transit provides approximately 400 to 450 rides per day through scheduled, curb-to-curb service for residents in rural areas of Buffalo, Adams, Franklin, Kearney and Gosper Counties.

R.Y.D.E. Transit is a service provided through the Community Action Partnership of Mid-Nebraska, a non-profit organization that seeks to improve access to transportation, education, housing and medical care for people living in rural communities in south central Nebraska

###

Federal Transit Administration Celebrates Opening of Bus Maintenance Facility, Improving Transit Service for Riders Across Rural Missouri

6/12/2013
Contact: Allison Lantero
202-366-8224

MACON, Mo. &#65533; The U.S. Department of Transportation&#65533;s Federal Transit Administration (FTA) today celebrated the opening of a new transit bus maintenance and administration facility in Macon County, which will significantly improve the efficient operation of transit buses that serve a growing ridership in 87 counties across Missouri. FTA Regional Administrator Mokhtee Ahmad joined state and local officials at the event.

The U.S. Department of Transportation provided 100 percent of funding for design, and construction of the $2.65 million facility through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.&#65533; The funding for the facility was part of a $14.6 million grant awarded to the Missouri Department of Transportation.

&#65533;President Obama is committed to modernizing our nation&#65533;s transportation infrastructure and bringing more good transportation choices to all Americans,&#65533; said U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. &#65533;Here in Missouri, and all across the country, we are investing in the clean, modern transit facilities our communities need to grow and provide access to opportunities for future generations.&#65533;

The facility's owner, OATS, Inc., is a private, nonprofit corporation providing demand-response and fixed-route transportation for senior citizens, people with disabilities, and the rural general public in Missouri. The new 10,000 square-foot facility will provide bus storage and maintenance areas for up to 12 transit vehicles and house the OATS Northeast regional offices. The new facility replaces on outmoded building that lacked office space and had no maintenance, bus wash, or storage capacity. Buses that had been stored in various outdoor locations without any protection from inclement weather will now be protected. These improvements mean less wear and tear on vehicles and more efficient transit service for years to come.

"This new facility will help prolong the life of the OATS bus fleet while also providing a safe, professional environment for transit workers," said Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff. "And with transit ridership up six percent across Missouri, keeping our transit facilities and vehicles in a state of good repair is more important than ever."

In 2012, OATS buses logged over 16 million miles across Missouri."

###

Federal Transit Administration Announces Groundbreaking for the First Bus Rapid Transit System to Serve El Paso and the Mesa Corridor

6/19/2013
Contact: Allison Lantero
202-366-8224

EL PASO, Texas – The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) today celebrated the groundbreaking for the new Sun Metro Brio Rapid Transit System (BRT) – the first 8.6-mile segment in a planned bus rapid transit (BRT) system serving El Paso. When completed, the first segment will provide efficient, state-of-the-art transit service to local universities, medical centers, and downtown cultural attractions.

"This new service delivers on President Obama's promise of bringing more good transportation choices to fast-growing cities like El Paso," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. "With the introduction of bus rapid transit, thousands of riders throughout the city's Mesa corridor will have affordable, reliable access to jobs, education, medical services and other destinations."

FTA provided approximately $13.5 million toward the $27.1 million project for the initial segment. An additional $2 million was provided from the Federal Highway Administration's Congestion and Air Quality program, with the remaining $11.6 million coming from state and local sources.

The initial segment of the Brio BRT line will connect commuters, students, seniors and others with several major local facilities, including the University of Texas at El Paso, El Paso Community College, Providence Memorial Hospital, Las Palmas Medical Center, and the El Paso Museum of Art.&#65533; The route will run northwest along Mesa Street from the current Downtown Transit Terminal near the Paso del Norte International Bridge and end at the newly constructed Westside Transit Terminal. This new service will mean shorter wait times with buses arriving every 10 minutes during peak hours, compared with waits of 30 minutes or more today.

&#65533;The people of El Paso have made it abundantly clear that public transportation is not a luxury, but a necessity, which is why Sun Metro&#65533;s ridership has grown by nearly 30 percent over the last four years,&#65533; said FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff, who toured the planned BRT route in February, 2011. &#65533;This is only the first step of the bold, local vision that will one day connect the entire El Paso region.&#65533;

This initial BRT line will consist of 22 weather-protected bus shelters where passengers may board, and system features that include pre-paid ticket vending for more efficient boarding, real-time scheduling information, coordinated traffic signals to keep buses moving through traffic, and onboard Wi-Fi. Sun Metro has completed the design phase of two of the four planned corridors of its Brio Rapid Transit System.&#65533; Currently, about 17 million people use bus service in El Paso annually.

###

Federal Transit Administration Celebrates Opening of Fall River Bus Terminal, Improving Transit Service for Riders in Southern Massachusetts

6/21/2013
Contact: Angela Gates
202-366-3669

FALL RIVER, Mass. &#65533; The U.S. Department of Transportation&#65533;s Federal Transit Administration (FTA) celebrated today&#65533;s opening of the new Southeastern Regional Transit Authority (SRTA) bus terminal, which will significantly improve public transit service and passenger amenities for thousands of daily bus riders in southern Massachusetts. FTA Deputy Regional Administrator Peter Butler joined state and local officials at the event.

The U.S. Department of Transportation provided approximately $3.7 million for the $5.2 million project, including $1.8 million in FTA funds, $912,300 through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, and $950,000 in other DOT funds. The remaining funds were provided by state and local government.

&#65533;President Obama is committed to modernizing our nation&#65533;s transportation infrastructure and bringing good transportation choices to more Americans,&#65533; said U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. &#65533;This investment in the historic Fall River community will provide transit riders

with convenient and reliable access to 21st century transportation services for years to come.&#65533;

Named the Louis D. Pettine Transportation Center, the new bus terminal includes an enclosed, climate-controlled passenger waiting area, five off-street bus bays to accommodate 14 bus routes that serve approximately 3,500 riders each day, a full-service ticket counter, public restrooms and space for a future coffee shop. The new center replaces a small mobile trailer that provided few passenger amenities and had been a temporary fix since 2006.

&#65533;Commuters from Fall River, New Bedford, and Dartmouth have waited seven long years for a permanent, state-of-the-art bus terminal that connects them with jobs and other destinations between Providence and Boston,&#65533; said Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff. &#65533;This new facility will help SRTA operate more efficiently while attracting a new generation of riders in southeastern Massachusetts to public transportation.&#65533;

The 8,000 square-foot facility opens to passengers on July 1 and will provide local SRTA bus service as well as intercity bus service to Boston and Providence. SRTA serves 10 communities in southern Massachusetts, with the majority of service focused in Fall River and New Bedford.

###

Federal Transit Administration Certifies Indiana, Kansas Producers of Accessible Transit Minivans Meet &#65533;Buy America&#65533; Requirements

7/1/2013
Contact: Angela Gates
202-366-3669

WASHINGTON &#65533; The U.S. Department of Transportation&#65533;s Federal Transit Administration (FTA) today announced a decision that clears the way for two domestic manufacturers&#65533;Braun Corporation in Winamac, Indiana and ElDorado National in Salina, Kansas&#65533;to handle final assembly of transit minivans that meet FTA&#65533;s &#65533;Buy America&#65533; rules. Through &#65533;Buy America,&#65533; FTA helps to ensure that transit vans, buses, streetcars, and rail cars funded with taxpayer dollars are built in the U.S. to the greatest extent possible using American-made materials and labor.

&#65533;President Obama is committed to strengthening the U.S. economy by putting more Americans to work making the products our nation needs to grow and compete in the 21st century,&#65533; said U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. &#65533;The &#65533;Buy America&#65533; program keeps more good manufacturing jobs in Indiana, Kansas and elsewhere, while creating new opportunities for companies eager to meet the growing demand for public transportation vehicles.&#65533;

Braun and ElDorado National separately petitioned FTA earlier this year to learn whether their manufacturing processes for converting Chrysler and Dodge minivans into wheelchair-accessible vehicles for use by public transit agencies met FTA&#65533;s &#65533;Buy America&#65533; requirements for final assembly. After careful review, FTA determined that both manufacturers meet the requirements. The&#65533;decision helps both companies keep hundreds of workers busy converting vans&#65533;while providing more work for nearly a dozen smaller suppliers around country that provide door panels, ramps, and other custom components.

&#65533;Between 2008 and 2012, FTA reduced the number of &#65533;Buy America&#65533; waivers allowing companies to source their materials off-shore from 37 down to just three,&#65533; said FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff. &#65533;Clearly, our industry partners are finding new and innovative ways to make and assemble transportation vehicles here at home. This is a big win for American jobs and American manufacturing.&#65533;

Consistent with the President&#65533;s efforts to boost domestic employment through infrastructure investment, FTA has dramatically strengthened its

adherence and enforcement of its Buy America rules.&#65533; FTA has vigorously investigated alleged violations and has also begun auditing select rolling stock procurements to ensure that the vehicles rolling off the assembly line actually contained the percent of U.S.-made infrastructure required under its regulations.&#65533; FTA&#65533;s &#65533;Buy America&#65533; rules require that at least 60 percent of the components used in transit vehicles must be manufactured in the United States.

###

Federal Transit Administration Celebrates Opening of Mission Transit Center, Improving Transit Service for Kansas Riders

7/1/2013
Contact: Angela Gates
202-366-3669

MISSION, Kansas – The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) today celebrated the opening of the new Mission Transit Center that will significantly enhance transit service in Johnson County and connect thousands of daily riders to jobs and other destinations in the Kansas City region. FTA Regional Administrator Mokhtee Ahmad joined state and local officials at the event.

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) provided $10.7 million for the project through the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant program. The funding was part of a $50 million TIGER grant to revitalize key neighborhoods in Kansas City's urban area and improve access to jobs throughout the region.

"Over the last four years, DOT's TIGER program has committed $3.1 billion to help communities plan and build more than 200 projects that strengthen our nation's transportation infrastructure," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. "Here in Mission, Kansas, and all across America, those investments are improving opportunities for hard-working families, while helping us reduce our carbon footprint and build more sustainable communities."

The Mission Transit Center is a new transportation hub that unites six bus routes serving riders in Mission and Overland Park, including Johnson County Transit's newly launched JO Connex bus service. The new center features electronic displays with real-time bus route information and covered outdoor seating for a more comfortable rider experience.

"The people of Johnson County need and deserve a 21st century transit system that connects them with downtown jobs, Johnson County Community College, the shops at Oak Park Mall, and other destinations," said Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff. "This new transit hub is vitally important to the region's ongoing effort to spur new economic development in the region and better connect the surrounding neighborhoods with downtown Kansas City."

Johnson County Transit has been working in partnership with the Mid-America Regional Council and the cities of Overland Park, Mission and Roeland Park to implement the transit improvements, which also includes 15 new sheltered bus stations along Metcalf Avenue and Shawnee Mission Parkway; traffic signal upgrades to keep buses moving through intersections; pedestrian access improvements; and park-and-ride facilities.

Johnson County Transit operates a total of 16 bus routes throughout the county, serving a population of more than 550,000, and connects passengers to other transit services in the region, including the Kansas City Area Transportation Authority and Unified Government Transit.

###

Federal Transit Administrator Rogoff Breaks Ground on Charlotte's LYNX Blue Line Extension from Center City to UNC Campus

7/18/2013
Contact: Angela Gates
202-366-3669

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff today joined North Carolina Governor Patrick McCrory, Charlotte Mayor Patsy Kinsey and other local officials to break ground on construction of the LYNX Blue Line extension from downtown Charlotte to the city's University of North Carolina (UNC) Charlotte campus. The new extension will double the length of the existing light rail system, create new development opportunities along the line and significantly expand transit options for thousands of residents and students in the rapidly growing Charlotte region.

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) is providing $580 million under a full funding grant agreement for the $1.16 billion project through FTA's Capital Investment (New Starts) Program. The remaining cost is covered by state and local funding.

"This project will create thousands of jobs during construction, create economic opportunity by connecting the city's financial, high tech and cultural centers with the thriving UNC Charlotte campus, and give commuters an alternative to sitting in traffic on I-85 and U.S. 29," said

Administrator Rogoff .&#65533; &#65533;The Blue Line extension is an important step in providing the world-class transportation system that Charlotte deserves.&#65533;

Over the last decade, the Charlotte region, which is home to numerous Fortune 500 companies, has grown faster than any other urban area with a population of one million or more, according to the U.S. Census. Light rail ridership has mirrored that growth, far exceeding expectations with more than 24 million riders since the line opened in 2007, and more than 16,000 riders on an average weekday.

Charlotte Area Transit System (CATS) officials estimate that the light rail extension will create approximately 7,600 jobs during construction and more than double total light rail ridership with more than 18,000 additional riders each weekday when the extension opens in 2017. The 9.3 mile extension will add service along what will become an 18.6-mile light rail corridor in Northeast Charlotte and will help to reduce congestion along Interstate 85 and US Route 29, where commercial and residential growth is expected to continue.

The LYNX Blue Line extension is the latest in a series of investments in Charlotte&#65533;s transportation future made by the U.S. Department of Transportation and FTA. In addition to the $580 million in funding for the Blue Line extension, announced last year by Rogoff at a signing ceremony in Charlotte, DOT is providing $18 million under the TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) grant program to expand capacity on the existing Blue Line to build additional power substations and extended platforms at three stations. These additions will accommodate more riders during peak hours and special events, with construction expected to begin next year. DOT also is providing $25 million to help the City of Charlotte build an initial 1.5-mile section of the Charlotte Streetcar line to connect riders to local bus and light rail service, with construction underway and expected to be completed in March 2015.

###

Federal Transit Administration Celebrates Stamford Urban Transitway Extension, Improving Commute for Drivers and Transit Riders

7/25/2013
Contact: Allison Lantero
202-366-8224

STAMFORD, Conn. – The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) today celebrated the groundbreaking of Phase 2 for Stamford Urban Transitway, a broad, multi-lane road providing direct access for rapid bus service, shuttle vans, cars, bikes and other vehicles heading from I-95 into the Stamford Intermodal Transportation Center, where passengers board Metro-North commuter rail, Amtrak trains and commuter buses. The FTA is contributing $94.2 million toward the $117.2 million project, which is part of a larger plan to connect this busy transportation hub with downtown Stamford and the city's business district, while reducing congestion on local streets. FTA Deputy Regional Administrator Peter Butler joined local officials at the event.

"In America today, a simple commute to work can involve two or more modes of transportation," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx. "This transitway will save time and effort for the more than 36,000 commuters who pass through Stamford's main transit hub every day, by making it easier for them to make the transition from their cars and local buses to the trains and commuter buses that take them to work and back again.""

The transitway alleviates the need for drivers to navigate one-way streets through downtown Stamford, while making the trip to the transportation center quicker, thanks in part to partially dedicated lanes for high-occupancy vehicles and efficiently timed signals to keep buses moving.&#65533; Phase 1, completed in November 2010, spurred major local employers, including NBC Sports and financial service companies RBS and UBS, to relocate their headquarters alongside the transitway, further streamlining the commute for thousands of employees.

&#65533;Stamford is not only the fastest-growing city in Connecticut, it&#65533;s also home to the second-busiest commuter rail station on the New Haven Line after Grand Central Station in New York,&#65533; said FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff, who visited Stamford to announce funding for the transitway extension in July 2010. &#65533;The transitway is a vital part of Stamford&#65533;s long-term vision to build an efficient, integrated transportation network that will support this city&#65533;s growth for years to come.&#65533;

The FTA contribution to the project includes $52.8 million for Phase 1 and $41.4 million for Phase 2.&#65533;

Upon its completion next year, the transitway will become part of a plan to open Stamford&#65533;s south waterfront as part of a $4 billion brownfields revitalization and mixed-use redevelopment that is already under way.

###

Federal Transit Administration Celebrates Opening of Kent Central Gateway Transit Center, Improved Access to Transit Options in Ohio

8/5/2013
Contact: Angela Gates
202-366-3669

KENT, Ohio – The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) today celebrated the opening of the Kent Central Gateway multimodal transit center.– The new center is a state-of-the-art facility that improves access to transportation options in Northeastern Ohio and is key to local efforts to revitalize downtown Kent and connect the city's central business district with Kent State University. FTA Regional Administrator Marisol Simon joined Congressman Tim Ryan and other local officials at the event.

The Department provided $20 million for the $25 million project through the TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) grant program. The remaining cost was covered by local funding sources.

"This new transit center will dramatically improve access to housing, employment and educational opportunities for everyone living or working in Kent,– said U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx. "It's a great example of how transportation can help the local economy, both by bringing new businesses and development to the downtown area, and by attracting the young graduates local businesses need by providing the transportation choices they want.–

The new transit center is at the heart of local efforts to dramatically transform the City of Kent's downtown core into a thriving employment, business and cultural center. The facility is central to a larger effort by the city, university and private developers to invest roughly $125 million to develop over 500,000 square feet of office and retail space, a new hotel and conference center, which opened in June, and a new county courthouse all within walking distance of the Gateway facility.

"When transit is done right, it can serve as the epicenter of community and economic redevelopment," said FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff. "The Federal Transit Administration is enormously proud to join with the city, university and their partners to create a vibrant downtown and thriving community that offers everyone an improved quality of life and greater choices about how to get to work, school, medical appointments and elsewhere."

According to the Portage Area Regional Transportation Authority (PARTA), which provides public transit service within Kent and the surrounding communities, more than 250 jobs were created during construction of the project, and hundreds of additional new jobs in the city are also expected due to related development.

PARTA will begin operating service out of the new transit center on Aug. 12. The facility will provide improved access between downtown Kent and the university, and serve as a key transfer location for PARTA and regional bus routes, connecting riders to Akron, Cleveland and other locations in Portage County. The facility also includes parking, pedestrian and bicycle connections to provide additional options for residents and visitors to get around.

###

U.S. Transportation Secretary Foxx Celebrates Opening of Draper Light Rail Line in Utah

Expanded Transit Service for Thousands in Salt Lake Region

8/16/2013
Contact: Angela Gates
202-366-3669

DRAPER, Utah – U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx today attended the grand opening of the new Draper TRAX light rail line, which significantly expands transit options for thousands of residents and commuters in the Salt Lake City area.– The extension, which connects downtown Salt Lake City to the suburb of Draper, is the final project in a seven-year, 70-mile effort.– Secretary Foxx was joined at the event by Senator Orin Hatch, Deputy Federal Transit Administrator Therese McMillan, Governor Gary Herbert and local officials.

–This expanded light rail service has generated thousands of jobs and will improve access to employment and other economic opportunities for decades to come,– said Secretary Foxx.––Salt Lake–s bold vision to place transit within easy reach of residents and connect dozens of communities along the fast-growing Wasatch Front is an excellent example of how investments in transportation lay a strong foundation for future growth.–

The Draper Light Rail Project, a 3.8-mile extension of Utah Transit Authority (UTA) TRAX service, created approximately 2,000 jobs during construction, according to UTA.

The U.S. Department of Transportation–s Federal Transit Administration (FTA) committed $116 million for the Draper extension through its New Starts Capital Investment Grant Program.

–FTA has been proud to support Utah–s efforts to more than double the region–s transit rail capacity, bringing world-class public transportation choices to one of the country–s fastest growing regions,– said FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff. –Generations of riders will now have seamless access to Salt Lake City International Airport, the central business district, and Draper – all without sitting in traffic on I-15.–

The project includes three new stations with park-and-ride-facilities. The TRAX extension to Draper is the final project in UTA–s Frontlines 2015

Program, a $2.9 billion program to build 70 miles of rail in seven years. Four new light rail lines and one new commuter rail line have more than doubled UTA's rail system. FTA committed approximately $545 million in total to the Frontlines 2015 Program, which includes $90 million through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

###

Federal Transit Administration Celebrates Renovated Bus Maintenance Facility Serving Springfield Transit Riders

8/30/2013
Contact: Allison Lantero
202-366-8224

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) today celebrated the opening of a renovated bus maintenance facility that has served Springfield for a century and has now been brought into a state of good repair for a new generation of transit riders. FTA Regional Administrator Mokhtee Ahmad joined local officials at the ribbon cutting.

"As more and more Springfield residents use public transit, we need to make sure the facility they're using is in a state of good repair and able to service new buses and keep them running at a lower cost," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx. "President Obama has called on us to invest in a modern, efficient transit system that meets the needs of today's riders and the work in Springfield is a great example for the rest of the nation."

FTA provided $7.7 million in State of Good Repair funds and $1.4 million in Recovery Act funds toward the $11.8 million facility, which is operated by City Utilities, the transit authority for Springfield.

�The barn that once housed mule-drawn streetcars serving Springfield in the early 20th century has been transformed into a 21st-century facility that gets buses up and running for the passengers who depend on them,� said FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff. �We continue to support the Administration�s call for a �Fix it First� plan that includes $9 billion in federal funds to help communities around the nation repair and renovate public transit systems that riders depend on to get to work, to the doctor�s office, and to other destinations.�

The renovated building houses buses indoors for the first time to reduce wear and tear and improve access for repairs, and includes larger maintenance bays and upgraded fuel and bus wash stations. Administrative offices for City Utilities personnel were also added.

In 2011, FTA awarded City Utilities $3 million in State of Good Repair funds to purchase 10 new buses that will spend less time in the shop, cost less to maintain, and provide a more reliable ride for everyone who needs it. City Utilities reports that bus ridership rose by 8 percent in 2012 over 2011, the latest year figures are available.

###

Federal Transit Administration Celebrates Opening of Nation's First Rural Bus Rapid Transit System

9/3/2013
Contact: Tom Wilson
202-366-5279

GLENWOOD SPRINGS, Colo. • The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) today celebrated the opening of the VelociRFTA Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) line serving the Roaring Forks Valley. The new service • the first rural BRT line in the nation • allows commuters from Glenwood Springs and surrounding communities to reach employers in Aspen, about 40 miles away, in an hour. That is roughly half the time the trip takes by regular bus service. FTA Regional Administrator Linda Gehrke joined state and local officials at the opening day event.

"President Obama's plan to provide a better opportunity for working families includes access to good jobs," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx. "Residents living in rural Roaring Forks Valley need and deserve an affordable, reliable way to travel to work, and we are committed to investing in more good transit projects like this one to ensure that everyone • including residents of rural areas - has the chance to get ahead in the 21st century economy."

With buses spaced 10 minutes apart during peak hours and plentiful parking available at nine stations, the VelociRFTA system combines the convenience of rail with the lower cost of bus service, giving commuters an

efficient way to get to work. The service combines travel in mixed traffic with designated bus lanes and provides traffic lights timed to improve efficiency.

“This is going to make a huge difference in the quality of life for thousands of families who need affordable transportation choices that work for them,” said Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff, who attended the project’s groundbreaking in April 2012. “For many riders, the benefits of this investment are significant, with commute times cut in half and families saving hundreds of dollars a month on gas – freeing up funds for household groceries and other necessities.”

FTA committed nearly $25 million to the $46.2 million project through its Very Small Starts Capital Investment Grant program. The remainder was financed locally.

###

U.S. Department of Transportation Announces $13.6 Million To Advance American-Made Fuel Cell Technology for Transit Industry

9/5/2013
Contact: Angela Gates
202-366-3669

ENDICOTT, N.Y. – The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) today announced $13.6 million in federal funding to advance the commercialization of American-made fuel cell buses for the transit industry. Eight projects were selected to receive a share of FY2012 funds through FTA's National Fuel Cell Bus Program, which has provided nearly $90 million since 2006 to speed the development of fuel cell technology by tapping American innovation and bringing more opportunities to American manufacturers.

"The Obama Administration is committed to investing in projects that bring cleaner, greener transportation options to more Americans and help our nation compete globally in the 21st century," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx. "These investments will continue to expand innovative transportation alternatives so people across the country can get across town safely and efficiently."

Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff made the announcement at BAE Systems in Endicott, N.Y., which makes hybrid propulsion systems. A current funding recipient under FTA's National Fuel Cell Bus Program, BAE is helping to build next-generation fuel cell buses for the Sunline

Transit Agency in Thousand Palms, California; the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority in Cleveland, Ohio, and Tompkins Consolidated Transit Authority in Ithaca, New York. A list of all projects and partner organizations funded today and throughout the program's history is available here; a map showing all project partnerships around the country is here.

"Federal investments in fuel cell technology and other green energy sources have been a tremendous catalyst for America's innovators as they find new ways to power public transportation for the future," said Rogoff. "We're proud of our role in supporting cutting-edge research that protects and creates good jobs here in upstate New York and around the nation."

Funding for the projects announced today will be managed by CALSTART and the Center for Transportation and the Environment, two non-profit organizations that are responsible for developing and managing projects as part of the National Fuel Cell Bus Program.

From FY2006 through FY2012, FTA's National Fuel Cell Bus Program has been a leader for the transit industry in supporting innovative research and demonstration and deployment projects that are helping to reduce the cost of fuel cells for transit use, creating American jobs and manufacturing opportunities, and benefitting other types of clean-powered buses such as hybrid and battery-powered buses that use the same electric drive technology. The National Fuel Cell Bus Program also helps project partners meet FTA's Buy America requirements.

Later this year, FTA expects to announce funding for a new Low or No Emission Vehicle Deployment grant program to support the commercialization of a variety of clean fuel technologies, including fuel cell and battery-powered buses. The program, authorized under the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21), will continue to move FTA's energy research goals forward.

###

U.S. Department of Transportation Announces $10 Million TIGER 2013 Grant to Improve Bus Service Into Downtown Nashville

Project Supports President Obama's Call to "Fix it First" by Repairing Aging Infrastructure

9/6/2013
Contact: Amy Bernstein
(202) 366-0706

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) today announced a $10 million grant for the Nashville Transit Signal Priority System upgrade. The project is one of 52 transportation projects in 37 states that will receive a total of approximately $474 million from DOT's Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) 2013 discretionary grant program. Among these, nearly half – 25 projects funded at $123.4 million – support rural areas of the country.

The $13.8 million project includes the installation of upgraded traffic signal equipment and safety enhancements that will improve on-time bus service and provide a more comfortable ride for thousands traveling to Nashville's Central Business District every day.–– Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff was joined in Nashville by Mayor Karl Dean and local officials to announce the funds.

"These TIGER projects are the best argument you can make for investment in our transportation infrastructure," said U.S. Transportation Secretary

Anthony Foxx.�� �Together, they answer President Obama's call for a stronger transportation system for future generations by repairing existing roads and bridges, connecting people to new jobs and opportunities, and contributing to our nation's economic growth by returning this route to its original condition reducing the associated long-term operations and maintenance costs.��

The Nashville Transit Signal Priority System will upgrade decades-old traffic signals and add signal priority equipment for all of the fixed-route buses serving southeastern Nashville along Murfreesboro Road. The upgrades will speed bus movement throughout Nashville, allowing the city to provide riders with more frequent pick-ups and drop-offs without adding more buses to already busy streets. The project also includes upgraded bus shelters, real-time information signs, and new pedestrian crosswalks and sidewalks. The Murfreesboro corridor carries the second-highest transit ridership in Nashville's Metropolitan Transit Authority system, with 890,000 rides provided on this route in 2012 alone. The improvements will benefit current riders and help attract new riders to the Route 55 Bus Rapid Transit-Lite line that opened in the spring of 2013.

This TIGER grant is a big win for the thousands of riders in Davidson County who depend on the Route 15 bus and the Route 55 bus rapid transit line to get to work, to medical appointments, to school, and other important destinations in Nashville, said Administrator Rogoff. This project will specifically help the community Fix it First making much-needed repairs and upgrades to an aging public transit system, making it safe, reliable, and desirable.

The highly competitive TIGER program offers one of the only federal funding possibilities for large, multi-modal projects that often are not suitable for other federal funding sources. These federal funds leverage money from private sector partners, states, local governments, metropolitan planning organizations and transit agencies. The 2013 TIGER round alone supports $1.8 billion in overall project investments.

TIGER has enjoyed overwhelming demand since its creation, a trend continued by TIGER 2013. Applications for this most recent round of grants totaled more than $9 billion, far exceeding the approximately $474 million set aside for the program. In all, the Department received 585 applications from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and Guam.

The projects funded through this round of TIGER illustrate the President's goal of creating Ladders of Opportunity that connect people to jobs, repairing and replacing aging infrastructure with a Fix it First approach and contributing to America's economic growth.

On March 26, 2013, the President signed the FY 2013 Appropriations Act, which after sequestration provided approximately $474 million for Department of Transportation national infrastructure investments. Like the first four rounds, TIGER 2013 grants are for capital investments in infrastructure and are awarded on a competitive basis based on the published selection criteria. This is the fifth round of TIGER funding.

Under all five rounds combined, the TIGER program has provided more than $3.6 billion to 270 projects in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Demand for the program outweighed available funds, and during all five rounds, the Department of Transportation received more than 5,200 applications requesting more than $114.2 billion for transportation projects across the country.

Click here for additional information on individual TIGER grants www.dot.gov/tiger/.

###

U.S. Department of Transportation Announces $10.3 Million TIGER Grant to Build New Transit Transfer Center in El Paso, Texas

Project supports President Obama's Commitment to Improve Ladders of Opportunity

9/6/2013
Contact: Angela Gates
202-366-3669

EL PASO, Texas The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) today announced a $10.3 million grant for the Northgate Transfer Center Development Project, one of 52 transportation projects in 37 states that will receive a total of approximately $474 million from DOT's Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) 2013 discretionary grant program. Among these, nearly half 25 projects funded at $123.4 million support rural areas of the country. Deputy Federal Transit Administrator Therese McMillan was in El Paso along with Mayor Oscar Leeser and local officials to announce the funds

"These TIGER projects are the best argument you can make for investment in our transportation infrastructure," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx. "The projects TIGER supports ensure a stronger transportation system for future generations by repairing existing roads and bridges, connecting people to new jobs and opportunities, and contributing to our nation's economic growth."

The $26.9 million Northgate Transfer Center Development Project will transform the site of a former suburban shopping mall into a modern transportation hub in northern El Paso the fastest growing area of the city and connect thousands of transit riders to the Dyer Corridor Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) line, one of four new BRT lines planned for El Paso. The corridor will serve the U.S. Army Base at Fort Bliss, the Five Points Transit Center and the city's Central Business District. The new transit hub is also the centerpiece of a planned transit-oriented development project to create a vibrant, walkable community around the transfer center.

"This TIGER grant is a big win for the City of El Paso, where Sun Metro serves roughly 9 out of 10 metro residents who need to get to work, school, medical appointments and elsewhere," said McMillan. "This is one of the projects we're funding through TIGER across the country that will specifically help communities create ladders of opportunity for working families eager to succeed and participate in their communities."

In addition to the TIGER grant announced today, FTA previously announced it is providing $13.5 million for the Mesa Corridor BRT Line, which is currently under construction and expected to open next year. The Mesa BRT Line will serve western El Paso and connect riders to the Dyer BRT Line at the city's Downtown Transfer Center.

The highly competitive TIGER program offers one of the only federal funding possibilities for large, multi-modal projects that often are not suitable for other federal funding sources. These federal funds leverage money from private sector partners, states, local governments, metropolitan planning organizations and transit agencies. The 2013 TIGER round alone supports $1.8 billion in overall project investments.

TIGER has enjoyed overwhelming demand since its creation, a trend continued by TIGER 2013. Applications for this most recent round of grants totaled more than $9 billion, far exceeding the $474 million set aside for the program. In all, the Department received 585 applications from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and Guam.

The projects funded through this round of TIGER illustrate the President's goals of creating "Ladders of Opportunity" that connect people to jobs, repairing and replacing aging infrastructure with a "Fix it First" approach and contributing to America's economic growth.

On March 26, 2013, the President signed the FY 2013 Appropriations Act, which after sequestration provided approximately $474 million for Department of Transportation national infrastructure investments. Like the first four rounds, TIGER 2013 grants are for capital investments in

infrastructure and are awarded on a competitive basis based on the published selection criteria.&#65533; This is the fifth round of TIGER funding.&#65533;

Under all five rounds combined, the TIGER program has provided more than $3.6 billion to 270 projects in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.&#65533; Demand for the program outweighed available funds, and during all five rounds, the Department of Transportation received more than 5,200 applications requesting more than $114.2 billion for transportation projects across the country.

Click here for additional information on individual TIGER grants www.dot.gov/tiger/.

###

Federal Transit Administration Celebrates Groundbreaking of Cleveland's West Shore Express Bus Rapid Transit Line

9/13/2013
Contact: Angela Gates
202-366-3669

CLEVELAND – The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) today celebrated the groundbreaking of the West Shore Express Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) line that will significantly improve bus service along Clifton Boulevard, a key transportation corridor connecting the western suburb of Lakewood to downtown Cleveland. FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff joined Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson, Lakewood Mayor Michael Summers, Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (RTA) CEO Joe Calabrese and other local officials at the event.

"The expanded bus service will better connect the people of Ohio to jobs, schools, and economic opportunities for years to come," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx. "Cleveland's bold vision to place transit within easy reach of residents will contribute to the region's revitalization – and fulfills President Obama's call for a stronger transportation system for future generations."

The U.S. Department of Transportation is providing roughly $16.3 million toward the $20 million West Shore Express BRT line, including $8.5 million for the purchase of 15 new buses manufactured by New Flyer Industries in St. Cloud, Minnesota.

�Cleveland residents already know that BRT done right is an effective way to reduce congestion, shorten commutes, and improve access to downtown, as the very popular HealthLine BRT on Euclid Avenue has shown,� said FTA Administrator Rogoff. �We�re proud to support the city�s effort to bring a second BRT line to the Lakewood community and Clifton Boulevard, resulting in a reliable and desirable ride for commuters, students at Cleveland State, seniors, and those who depend on transit to get around.�

The West Shore Express BRT line along Clifton Boulevard will provide fast, efficient transit service along a four-mile corridor between Westgate Transit Center in Fairview Park and the federally-funded Stephanie Tubbs Jones Transit Center downtown, with buses traveling in bus-only curb lanes during peak commuting hours; traffic signal priority to improve on-time bus service; and 19 new, lighted bus shelters with improved passenger amenities, including real-time GPS-based bus arrival monitors.

While in Cleveland, FTA Administrator Rogoff also announced the release of a $796,800 grant to the Greater Cleveland RTA through FTA�s State of Good Repair Program to purchase 11 new paratransit vehicles. These will replace older vehicles in RTA�s fleet that have reached or exceed their useful life and ensure reliable transit service for people with disabilities.

###

Federal Transit Administration Announces Interagency Agreement To Strengthen the Buy America Program and Domestic Manufacturing

9/24/2013
Contact: Angela Gates
202-366-3669

WASHINGTON The U.S. Department of Transportations Federal Transit Administration (FTA) today announced a new Interagency Agreement with the U.S. Department of Commerces National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) that will make it easier for manufacturers and transit agencies to identify domestically made products, such as rolling stock and other steel and iron components that comply with FTAs Buy America rules requiring that at least 60 percent of the components must be manufactured in the United States. Theagreement (PDF) also will foster a growing network of U.S. equipment manufacturers and potential suppliers.

The Department of Transportations Buy America program promotes American jobs, encourages innovation, and revitalizes our manufacturing sector as we build a strong domestic supply chain for our nations infrastructure needs, said Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx. We will continue to support programs like this one so that more of Americas hard-working families have access to good opportunities and a brighter future.

Through Buy America, FTA helps to ensure that transit vans, buses, streetcars, and rail cars funded with taxpayer dollars are built in the U.S. using American-made materials and labor. As part of the agreement announced today, NIST will help FTA identify U.S. companies that make or have the capability to make products for the transit industry that are particularly difficult to source or are currently unavailable in the United States. This will help to maximize compliance and minimize waiver requests seeking Buy America exemptions from the U.S. Department of Transportation. NIST will also conduct a series of outreach events to connect equipment manufacturers with potential suppliers.

Our goal is simply to make sure that we invest Americas taxpayer dollars into Americas transit workforce and industry, said Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff. Between 2008 and 2012, FTA reduced the number of Buy America waivers allowing companies to source their materials off-shore from 37 down to just three, which clearly

shows that our industry partners are finding new and innovative ways to make and assemble transit vehicles and other components here at home.&#65533;

Consistent with the Administration&#65533;s efforts to boost domestic employment through infrastructure investment, FTA has dramatically strengthened its adherence and enforcement of its &#65533;Buy America&#65533; rules. FTA has vigorously investigated alleged violations and has also begun reviewing select rolling stock procurements to ensure that the vehicles rolling off the assembly line actually contained the percentage of U.S.-made infrastructure required under its regulations.

###

U.S. Department of Transportation Seeks Comment on Ways to Strengthen, Coordinate Transit Safety and Asset Management

Public Input Key to Implementing FTA's New Safety Authority, Oversight Under MAP-21

9/26/2013
Contact: Amy Bernstein
202-366-0706

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) today announced that the agency is seeking public comment on the most significant regulatory step taken under FTA's new transit safety authority. The Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) on Safety and Transit Asset Management was published in the Federal Register (PDF) on October 3, 2013. A safety and transit asset management rulemaking is required by the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21), and covers several topics that signal FTA's commitment to ensuring that efforts to keep transit systems in good working order goes hand-in-hand with efforts to keep them safe.

"This Administration fought hard for the ability to provide the same level of safety oversight for people riding and working on transit that we do for other forms of transportation," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx. "We will continue to use all the tools at our disposal to ensure a safe, efficient, and reliable future for public transportation in this country — so millions of working families have access to the jobs, education, and health care they need to succeed."

Safety advocates, industry leaders and the general public are all invited to comment on several MAP-21 requirements that are part of FTA's new safety and transit asset management authority, including:

- Developing and implementing meaningful national, state-level, and transit agency safety plans; and
- Implementing a national transit asset management program to help transit agencies establish a systematic means for managing their assets and establishing performance measures for making improvements to the condition of their facilities, equipment, rolling stock, and infrastructure.

Comments gathered from this ANPRM will help inform future notices of proposed rulemakings on these topics. Comments must be received within 90 days of the date the notice is published.

"Transit ridership is reaching record levels and will continue to grow. Our goal is not to impose overly burdensome new regulations, but to help the transit industry better address growing demand for service while better maintaining their equipment so they may operate safely and cost-effectively," said FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff. "We need to hear from all stakeholders, including the riding public, to make sure we get it right as we implement FTA's new transit safety authority."

The new safety regulatory authority in MAP-21, which took effect on Oct. 1, 2012, is the culmination of a concerted effort by the U.S. Department of Transportation and the FTA that began in December 2009, when the Department formally transmitted to Congress a legislative proposal to establish and enforce minimum federal safety standards for rail transit systems. Many of the safety provisions included in MAP-21, such as integrating safety, transit asset management, and state of good repair, are priorities carried forward from the Administration's original proposal.

FTA is making progress to implement other aspects of MAP-21 safety requirements. For example, FTA is working with state safety oversight agencies to ensure they have the staff and resources so their rail transit systems meet essential safety requirements in the law. In May 2013, FTA announced the availability of $21.9 million this fiscal year to help all the affected states handle this responsibility.

Taken together, these efforts are essential for ensuring that FTA, states, and the transit industry work together to ensure the safety of public transportation across the nation.

###

Federal Transit Administration Celebrates Completion of TIGER-Funded Transit Improvements Along State Avenue in Kansas City, Kansas

9/27/2013
Contact: Angela Gates
202-366-3669

KANSAS CITY, Kan. – The U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) Federal Transit Administration (FTA) today celebrated the completion of two new transit centers and other transit improvements that will significantly enhance bus service for thousands of riders traveling along State Avenue, a major east-west Kansas City corridor that connects people with work and other services in the region. The projects were funded primarily with a $10.5 million 2009 DOT Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant.

"Expanding access to transit helps thousands of hard-working Kansas City families gain access to the jobs, job training, education, and health care services they need to succeed," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx. "Over the last five years, DOT's TIGER program has committed more than $3.6 billion to help communities plan and build more than 270 projects like this one that strengthen our nation's transportation infrastructure."

FTA Regional Administrator Mokhtee Ahmad joined state and local officials at the opening of the new Midtown Metro Center at 47th and State

Avenue.&#65533; The other project, the Downtown Metro Center at 7th and Minnesota Avenue, opened in August, 2013.

In addition to the TIGER funds, nearly $1.6 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 funds contributed to the $13.1 million set of projects on State Avenue, which also included upgraded bus shelters and better pedestrian access to bus stops along State and Minnesota avenues.

&#65533;The State Avenue corridor improvements reflect an ongoing commitment by Kansas City and Wyandotte County to build a public transportation network that connects the city with its suburbs, so that families can spend less money on gas, and less time sitting in traffic,&#65533; said Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff. &#65533;The region&#65533;s efforts are paying off, as transit ridership continues to grow, supporting the area&#65533;s revitalization efforts and creating new economic opportunities.&#65533;

The Kansas City Area Transportation Authority (KCATA) has worked with the Unified Government Transit of Wyandotte County to implement the State Avenue transit improvements. KCATA reported record ridership in 2012, with annual ridership exceeding 16 million trips&#65533;a 10 percent increase over the last two years.

The TIGER grant funds for the State Avenue transit improvements are part of a larger $50 million TIGER grant awarded to the Kansas City Transit Corridor and Green Impact Zone Project in 2009 to revitalize key neighborhoods in Kansas City&#65533;s urban area and improve access to jobs throughout the region.

###

U.S. Department of Transportation Announces $29 Million to Fund New Research on Strengthening Transit Safety and Disaster Recovery Capabilities

10/21/2013
Contact: Amy Bernstein
202-366-0706

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) recently announced the availability of $29 million in competitive research funds for innovative public transportation projects (PDF) that will help ensure safe and reliable transit service for riders of America's public transportation systems. The grants will help transit agencies strengthen operational safety, better withstand natural disasters and other emergencies, and improve emergency response capabilities.

"The American people are counting on us to deliver a safe and efficient transportation system that they can depend on day after day," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx. "That requires us to continue investing in new and better ways to keep transit as safe as possible while also ensuring that rail and bus lines can recover quickly after a disaster strikes and continue serving the millions of riders who rely on them."

This is the first time that funds available through the FTA's Research, Development, Demonstration, and Deployment Program have been dedicated to implementing market-ready solutions specifically designed to strengthen safety and improve transit system resiliency.

"For the first time in FTA's history, we're calling on the transit industry, the private sector, universities and others to work with us to develop and implement innovative solutions that reflect our commitment to safety and bringing transit facilities into a state of good repair," said FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff. "This will translate into real-world improvements that protect riders and taxpayers alike, ranging from reducing transit-related injuries to making transit systems less vulnerable to flooding and severe weather."

Funding proposals will be considered in three areas:

- **Operational Safety:** Projects that develop and demonstrate new or improved technologies, methods, and practices that will increase the operational safety of public transportation services. Examples include

electronic intrusion detection systems, remote rail monitoring and train undercarriage inspection systems.

- **Resiliency:** Projects that increase the resilience and robustness of public transportation systems so they can better withstand natural disasters and other externally caused emergencies. Examples include increasing a system's resistance to corrosion from exposure to saltwater, mitigating the impact of flooding and severe weather, and increasing the ability to withstand extreme temperatures.
- **All-Hazards Emergency Response and Recovery:** Projects to improve communications with emergency responders and demonstrate promising methods for restoring transit service in the wake of a major disruption. Examples include improving ways to locate and communicate with distressed passengers as well as transit workers, and using transit assets to assist with emergency response and recovery efforts.

The $29 million combines FTA research funds from Fiscal Years 2012 and 2013. FTA expects to announce projects selected for funding in 2014.

###

Federal Transit Administration Celebrates Groundbreaking of New Bus Facility to Improve Transit Service in Northern Virginia

10/28/2013
Contact: Angela Gates
202-366-3669

LORTON, Va. • The U.S. Department of Transportation•s (DOT) Federal Transit Administration (FTA) today participated in the groundbreaking of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority•s Cinder Bed Road Bus Facility that will help improve transit service for thousands of Metrobus riders in Northern Virginia.• FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff joined Congressman Jim Moran and officials from Fairfax County, Alexandria and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) at the event.•••

•We have to keep buses, equipment and facilities in good shape if people are going to be able to rely on transit to get to work, school or other important appointments on time,• said U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx. •This new bus facility is an excellent example of how investing in 21st century transportation options will better meet the needs of today•s riders and of future generations.•

The new bus facility will replace an outdated and deteriorating bus garage that was originally built in 1945. The state-of-the-art facility will feature new and more reliable equipment to improve the maintenance of 160 buses

and accommodate newer, alternative fuel buses that require space and equipment that doesn't exist at the current garage.

"The Washington region's Metrobus service is one of the busiest operations in the nation, providing nearly half a million rides each weekday," said Administrator Rogoff. "This facility is an investment in both the future of transit serving fast-growing Northern Virginia and the transit workers we depend on to keep a modern, efficient transit fleet in good working order."

WMATA expects to use approximately $58 million in FTA formula funds toward the $85 million project. The remaining cost will be covered by state and local funding sources. The new facility is expected to open in 2015.

###

Federal Transit Administration Celebrates Opening of New Regional Transit Center, Improved Access to Transit Options in Southwest Mississippi

11/15/2013
Contact: Angela Gates
202-366-3669

NATCHEZ, Miss. – The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) today celebrated the opening of the Natchez Regional Transit Center and Maintenance Facility that will improve access to transportation options for transit riders who live and work in rural Southwest Mississippi. FTA Regional Administrator Yvette Taylor joined Mayor Larry L. "Butch" Brown and other state and local officials at a ribbon cutting event.

"Public transportation provides much-needed access to jobs, medical care and other vital services for residents in our nation's rural communities," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx. "This new transit center will help connect thousands of people in Natchez, Adams County and the surrounding area to new jobs and new opportunities throughout the region."

The Department has provided approximately $3.8 million toward the $4 million transit center, with the majority of funds coming from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The City of Natchez and Mississippi

Department of Transportation are covering the remaining cost of the project.

“The Federal Transit Administration is proud to be a partner in Mississippi’s efforts to expand transportation options for seniors, students, hard-working families and others in Natchez and throughout the state,” said Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff. “For many individuals in rural areas, public transit is often the only way to travel to work, school and other destinations. This new regional transit center will help give riders greater choices about how to get around.”

The new, state-of-the-art facility will improve mobility for residents in rural Southwest Mississippi, including the elderly and people with disabilities, and serve as a regional passenger transfer hub for the Natchez Transit System (NTS), a public, nonprofit organization that provides transportation services to residents in multiple counties of the state.

The two-story, 9,000 square foot building includes space for maintenance and storage of about 30 transit vehicles, a park and ride lot, and public waiting areas where transit riders can purchase tickets and get schedule information. The Natchez Transit System provides about 70,000 rides annually and will be coordinating with other transit providers in the region to expand transportation services available to riders at the new Natchez Regional Transit Center.

###

U.S. Department of Transportation Celebrates Groundbreaking of New Kirk Avenue Bus Facility to Improve Transit Service in Baltimore

11/26/2013
Contact: Angela Gates
202-366-3669

BALTIMORE – U.S. Department of Transportation Deputy Secretary John Porcari and Federal Transit Administrator (FTA) Peter Rogoff today participated in a groundbreaking to replace the Maryland Transit Administration's (MTA) aging Kirk Avenue bus maintenance garage with a modern facility that will improve the reliability of local bus service for thousands of Baltimore-based riders who depend on public transit every day. The officials were joined by Congressman Elijah Cummings, Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake and other state and local representatives.

"This project will create hundreds of good construction jobs in Baltimore while maintaining a fleet of transit buses that connect hard-working families to jobs, school, medical appointments, shopping and other destinations throughout the city," said Deputy Secretary Porcari. "The new facility is important for maintaining a new generation of cleaner, greener transit vehicles in good working order for years to come."

The new maintenance facility is the first phase in a two-phase, $140 million modernization project to replace the existing Kirk Avenue facility, which was built in 1947 and is located in a densely populated residential

neighborhood in northeast Baltimore. The new facility will include two energy-efficient buildings that allow for improved maintenance and storage of approximately 175 buses. For the first time, all the buses will be brought indoors for service, thereby reducing noise, emissions, and other environmental impacts that have affected the community.

"Modernizing the Kirk Avenue bus facility will help ensure that the MTA has the right tools to maintain its growing fleet of energy-efficient hybrid buses and better serve the people of Baltimore," said FTA Administrator Rogoff. "All across the United States, we are investing in projects like this one to improve our nation's public transit infrastructure and attract a new generation of riders."

The U.S. Department of Transportation is providing $45 million toward Phase 1of the maintenance facility, including $40 million from FTA's Bus and Bus Facilities Program for State of Good Repair. The State of Maryland is covering the remaining cost of the $65 million facility, which is expected to be completed in 2015. The second phase of the modernization project will include a new transportation and storage facility, with construction expected to begin in 2015.

###

U.S. Department of Transportation Celebrates Opening of Sugar House Streetcar Line, Expanding Transit Options in Salt Lake Region

12/5/2013
Contact: Angela Gates
202-366-3669

SALT LAKE CITY – The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration today participated in the opening of the first segment of the Sugar House Streetcar line in a corridor that is ripe for redevelopment. The new service connects thousands of area residents with local employers, shops and area attractions while spurring millions of dollars in residential and retail development along the route. The $55 million project was funded in part by a $26 million TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) discretionary grant. The remaining funds were provided locally.

Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff joined Salt Lake City Mayor Ralph Becker, South Salt Lake City Mayor Cherie Wood and other local officials at the opening celebration, which included a streetcar ride with stops in both Salt Lake City and South Salt Lake City.

"As one of the fastest growing states in the nation, Utah has successfully embraced public transportation as an effective way to meet rising demand for affordable, reliable access to jobs, medical care, education and other opportunities," said Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx. "TIGER-

funded projects like the Sugar House Streetcar make a strong case for investing in our nation's transportation infrastructure."

The initial two-mile streetcar line, dubbed the S-Line, connects riders with the Central Pointe Station on the Utah Transit Authority (UTA) TRAX light rail line on the west end and the Sugar House commercial business district on the east end, with seven stops along the way. The line, surrounded by parkland and walking trails, offers easy connections to over 130 miles of existing and planned rail transit throughout the region. More than $400 million in construction for new or redeveloped housing, retail, and office space is completed or under way in the Sugar House Business District, with millions of dollars more in development planned for the South Salt Lake City end. The project has created roughly 700 construction-related jobs. UTA and Salt Lake City are planning two extensions to the streetcar line in the future.

"Utah's visionary investment in public transit along the fast-growing Wasatch Front is also an investment in a bright future for working families who want to spend less time in traffic on I-15 and less money at the gas pump," said Administrator Rogoff. "The new streetcar line is the latest addition to a 70-mile network of rail transit stretching from Salt Lake City to South Jordan and Draper, bringing millions of dollars in new investments, jobs, and opportunities to millions of area residents and businesses."

The Sugar House Streetcar project complements UTA's FrontLines 2015 Program—a roughly $2.5 billion effort to build 70 miles of rail in seven years. In August 2013, UTA opened the final rail transit project in the FrontLines 2015 program, capping the Federal Transit Administration's $570 million commitment to an extensive mix of regional commuter and light rail service.

###

U.S. Department of Transportation Awards $75 Million to Extend Commuter Rail Service in Southern California to Perris Valley

12/9/2013
Contact: Tom Wilson
202-366-5279

PERRIS, Calif. – The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) today announced $75 million in federal grant funds to extend the Metrolink 91 commuter rail line from Riverside to Perris, California. The Metrolink 91 extension to Perris is expected to draw 4,300 riders daily, reducing traffic on I-215 and helping area commuters who have some of the longest commutes in Southern California. Deputy Federal Transit Administrator Therese McMillan participated in a signing ceremony to commit the funds with U.S. Representatives Mark Takano and Ken Calvert, Perris City Mayor Daryl Busch, and other state and local officials.

"Bringing more good transportation options to residents in Southern California is vitally important to improving the quality of life in one of the state's most congested corridors," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx. "Throughout the United States, we are investing in projects like this one that help reduce congestion on our roadways while improving access to jobs, education, medical care, and other services."

The 24-mile Perris Valley Line will serve the communities of Alessandro, Moreno Valley and Perris and improve transit options for commuters east and south of downtown Riverside. It includes the construction of four new

stations along the route with parking at Riverside Hunter Park, Moreno Valley/March Field, Perris, and South Perris. Metrolink serves more than 44,000 riders on weekdays, over three-quarters of whom commuted by car before adopting transit, according to the Southern California Regional Rail Authority.

"The Federal Transit Administration is proud to invest in the Metrolink extension to Perris Valley, which is an important part of the region's commitment to expand and modernize public transportation for hard-working families," said Deputy Administrator McMillan. "We are committed to investing in more good projects like this one, which help regional economies to grow and compete in the 21st century."

FTA is committing $75 million in funding to the Riverside County Transportation Commission through FTA's Small Starts Capital Investment grant program. FTA's Small Starts grant comprises approximately 30 percent of the project's total cost of $248 million. The project also received approximately $63 million in other funds from the U.S. Department of Transportation. The remaining cost is provided by state and local sources. The extension is expected to be completed by December 2015.

###

U.S. Department of Transportation Celebrates Opening of New Light Rail Line, Expanding Transit Options in Houston Region

12/21/2013
Contact: Angela Gates
202-366-3669

HOUSTON – The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) today celebrated the opening of Houston's North Line light rail extension, the first of three new light rail lines that will significantly improve transit options in one of the nation's largest and fastest growing areas. FTA Regional Administrator Robert Patrick joined U.S. Representative Sheila Jackson Lee, Houston Mayor Annise Parker, Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County (METRO) officials, and other state and local representatives at a community event to celebrate the new service.

"Expanding transit options throughout the Houston region will help thousands of hard working families connect to the jobs, education and health care services they need to succeed in the 21st century economy," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx. "Across the country, we are investing in projects like this one that provide greater transportation choices, reduce congestion on area roadways, and lay a solid foundation for future economic growth."

The Department is providing $900 million toward construction of two new light rail lines in Houston, including $450 million for the North Line and

$450 million for the Southeast Line, which is currently under construction and expected to open in 2014. Funding for both rail lines is provided through FTA's Capital Investment (New Starts) Grant Program.

"The fourth largest city in the United States needs and deserves a world class transit system that meets the needs of residents today and will accommodate Houston's growing population," said FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff. "With more than one million people expected to move to the Houston region over the next decade, public transportation is key to building a successful, sustainable, and competitive environment to do business while creating thousands of jobs along the way."

Houston METRO estimates that nearly 1,800 jobs have been created during construction of the two new light rail lines. In addition, expanding service to the north and the southeast is part of the city's sweeping plan to connect Houston's workforce with major downtown employment centers, the Texas Medical Center, the University of Houston and Texas Southern University. Combined, the two projects will extend the existing light rail system by an additional 12 miles and provide alternatives to congested Interstate 45 and U.S. Route 59.

With 18 new passenger stops along the way, the expanded light rail will take riders to Reliant Park, Toyota Center, Minute Maid Park, BBVA Compass Stadium, the Museum District, and the George R. Brown Convention Center/Discovery Green Park. The new light rail lines are expected to carry more than 58,000 riders on weekdays, including more than 13,000 new transit riders a day, by the year 2030.

###

U.S. Department of Transportation Announces $3 Billion to Strengthen Resiliency of Transit Agencies Affected by Hurricane Sandy

Competitively awarded resiliency funds complement $5.7 billion already allocated for recovery and locally prioritized resiliency projects

12/23/2013
Contact: Angela Gates
202-366-3669

WASHINGTON, DC—U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx today announced the availability of approximately $3 billion to strengthen the resiliency of public transportation systems affected by Hurricane Sandy, which triggered the worst transit disaster in U.S. history just over a year ago. The funds will be awarded by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) on a competitive basis for projects that protect critical transit infrastructure from being damaged or destroyed by future natural disasters.

"We've made great progress in the year since Hurricane Sandy devastated transportation systems in New York, New Jersey, and other states in the storm's path," said Secretary Foxx. "With this funding, the Obama Administration is making good on its promise to the millions of transit riders throughout the region that we will continue to rebuild their roads, bridges and subways stronger than before."

Public transportation providers serving portions of the states where President Obama issued a major disaster declaration in the wake of the October 2012 storm are eligible to apply for funding through FTA's Public Transportation Emergency Relief Program. This covers Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia. The Notice of Funding Availability for Resiliency Projects in Response to Hurricane Sandy is available here.

"The $3 billion in resiliency funds announced today will go first and foremost to reinforce the critical infrastructure necessary to support public transportation systems damaged by Hurricane Sandy," said FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff. "Our goal is to advance the best regionally coordinated projects, so taxpayers won't have to pay to restore the same transit services a second or third time."

The Disaster Relief Appropriations Act of 2012 provided $10.9 billion for FTA's Emergency Relief Program for recovery, relief, and resiliency efforts in areas affected by Hurricane Sandy. That total was subsequently cut by almost $545 million due to sequestration. FTA is allocating the remaining $10.4 billion in multiple tiers for response, recovery, and rebuilding; for locally prioritized resiliency projects; and for competitively selected resiliency work. Apart from today's funding announcement, FTA has made available roughly $5.7 billion to help transit systems in the affected states. The work now under way includes reconstruction of the Montague and Greenpoint subways tubes, Hoboken Terminal, and other critical infrastructure.

###